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# THE INDEPENDENT

No 2,888

20 JANUARY 1996 (1R 65p) 50p

## SFO faces new crisis after Maxwell brothers go free

Call for urgent review of fraud investigations

JOHN WILLCOCK and JOHN EISENHAMMER

The Maxwell brothers, Kevin and Ian, were sensationally cleared of all charges to defraud the Maxwell pension funds yesterday, a verdict that was widely seen last night as a shattering blow to the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), the prosecuting authority during the eight-month trial.

Labour immediately called for an urgent review of the way big City frauds are investigated, as the not-guilty verdicts produced tears of joy and relief in the crowded courtroom. Over £400m disappeared from the Maxwell pension funds in 1991. Many observers were asking after the verdicts were returned: "So who is guilty, then?"

Kevin and Ian Maxwell wept in the Old Bailey courtroom after the jury gave their verdict shortly after 4pm yesterday. Only 10 feet away the SFO prosecution team looked stunned. Some predict the trial could herald the end for the SFO, an agency set up in the 1980s to combat large-scale fraud.

"It is essential, in view of the fact that this trial cost £25m, that we urgently review the way in which these cases are prosecuted, and in particular the role of the SFO," said Alastair Darling, Labour's City spokesman.

The SFO has suffered a series of humiliating failures, including the George Walker and Blue Arrow trials, the abandonment of the second Guinness trial, and the outcry that followed the lenient sentencing of the fraudster Roger Levitt.

"This is clearly another expensive and disastrous fiasco by the SFO," said Quentin Davies, Conservative member of the influential Commons Treasury Select Committee, whose report

last year expressed reservations about the SFO's credibility. "Fraud prosecution might be better handled by the City regulators themselves," said Matthew Carrington, another Conservative member of the Treasury committee.

The verdict will prompt questions about who can be held accountable for plundering more than £400m from the Maxwell pension funds. The search for the answers will involve City regulators, accountants, solicitors and banks.

The Maxwell jury of seven women and five men spent 11 nights in a hotel, and 34 hours and 17 minutes considering their verdict. At five minutes to two it was announced that a verdict had been reached. Ian and

### Inside

Who was really guilty?  
Pages 2,3

There will be some who will feel cheated by the acquittals, who want to see the Maxwell family pay. Yet the acquittals help us focus upon the significance of the fraud for the way our companies and pension funds are run. Robert Maxwell did not act alone. Leading article, page 16

Kevin Maxwell and the third defendant, Larry Trachtenberg, a former financial adviser to the Maxwell empire, returned to the courtroom. Kevin looked pale as the jury filed in. There were gasps in court as the forewoman announced "not guilty" to all the charges.

When the court rose Kevin ran over to shake the hands of all 12 of the jury. As the defendants embraced, Laura Maxwell burst into tears and embraced her husband Ian, who burst into tears.

Kevin hugged his brother as he declared that he was "very pleased and relieved by my acquittal".

He added: "I gave evidence in this trial over a period of 21 days and in his summing-up the judge said he thought no jury had had a better opportunity of assessing the honesty of the witness than in my case."

"Anyone who wishes to discover my attitude to the events leading to the collapse of my father's group has only to read a transcript of my evidence. I have nothing to add to it."

Kevin still faces eight indictments brought by the SFO. The agency asked yesterday



Triumphant: Kevin, left, and Ian Maxwell after their acquittal at the Old Bailey yesterday. Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

for seven days to consider its position on these charges, and those against two other figures in the Maxwell saga.

After the verdict, the SFO said: "It is our job to conduct a thorough investigation, that has happened in this case ... The criminal justice system has functioned in the way it is designed to do." Earlier in court, Kevin's counsel, Alun Jones QC, said

another trial would not make sense following this verdict. Mr Jones said the verdicts showed "the defendants acted honestly in the worst moments of the group's history. It would be oppressive to seek to try him again at public expense."

Outside the court room a smiling Ian grasped his brother by the shoulder and said: "I have not spoken since I was ar-

rested in 1992. I am naturally delighted to have been acquitted of the charge that I faced." The two brothers gave thumbs-up signs to the waiting media but neither would comment on whether the verdicts vindicated their father.

Kevin, 36, his brother Ian, 39, and Mr Trachtenberg, 42, denied conspiracy to defraud the pension funds by misusing £22m

worth of shares in an Israeli pharmaceutical company, Teva. The shares were used as security for a loan to prop up the crumbling Maxwell empire, after the publishing tycoon died in the Atlantic.

Kevin, alone, denied a similar charge of conspiring with his father to similarly misuse £100m-worth of shares in another Israeli company, Scitec.

## Pensioners stunned by verdict

STEVE BOGGAN

"I trusted him then as I trust him now," said Ian Maxwell as he stood outside the court, his arm round his brother's shoulder, eyes red from weeping. And, in the final analysis, that is what it had all come down to: trust.

That more than £400m in pension fund assets had gone missing was not in dispute. It was the manner in which they were spirited away that had occupied the jury for eight months; and in that manner lay appalling abuses of trust.

The trustees of the Maxwell pension funds had trusted Robert Maxwell to invest and safeguard the savings of their members. When he chose to risk those savings to prop up a crumbling business empire, he asked his sons to authorise their movement. In turn, the jury accepted, Ian and Kevin Maxwell trusted in their father's assurances that the money he was taking was his by right. It was not. But the jury accepted yesterday that the brothers believed it was.

The verdict left pensioners bemused, politicians angry and law enforcement officers shattered. With Robert Maxwell dead and with his sons acquitted, they had no-one left to blame for Britain's highest pensions fiasco. Maxwell pensioners, whose funds have, for the most part, now been secured, were stunned by the verdict.

"It sends out an appalling message," said Nigel Spackman of the Maxwell Pensioners Action Group. "Whether criminal or not, there was a

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### MAGAZINE

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## Why my son will go to grammar school, by Harriet Harman

DONALD MACINTYRE Political Editor

Labour was hating itself for fresh embarrassment over its education policy after the disclosure last night that Harriet Harman, shadow Health Secretary, is to send her son Joe to a grant-maintained grammar school in Kent.

Ms Harman's son - whose elder brother Harry, 13, goes to the Oratory, the grant-maintained Roman Catholic comprehensive attended by Tony Blair's son Euan - has secured a place in the highly competitive examination for the selective St Olave's School, a boys' grammar in Bromley. Ms Harman is married to Jack Dromey, a Transport and General Workers' Union official. Labour Par-

ty policy is opposed to the principle of selection in schools.

Ms Harman's son was one of the top 90 in the examination, out of 700 applicants. The 11-year-old is at present at a local state primary school, Dulwich Hamlets, in south London, acknowledged as a feeder school for St Olave's, a state school which has opted out of local authority control by becoming grant-maintained. The school is selective as well as grant-maintained, which makes the decision particularly sensitive.

Ms Harman said last night: "This is a state school that other children in my son's class will be going to. That he has got in has got absolutely nothing to do with the fact that I am an MP. Any child in Southwark can apply, many go and admission is



Ms Harman: 'Not unusual'

open to every child in Southwark irrespective of money or who their parents are."

Ms Harman said that there had never been the same pattern in London of sending chil-

dren to very local schools that there had been in other parts of the country. Many of her own constituents in the London borough of Southwark went to schools in Lewisham and many in Lambeth went to schools in Southwark.

She added: "There has always been a lot of travelling in London. It has also been common for a long time for parents in inner London to send their children to schools in outer London boroughs."

Ms Harman said the fact that she had not decided to send her second son to the same school as his brother in no way reflected on the Oratory, which was a "brilliant" school. "Sometimes a school is perfect for one child and another school is perfect for another. There is nothing

unusual in a parent sending one child to one school and another to a different school."

David Blunkett, shadow Education Secretary, told the party conference in October that a Labour government would create no more selective schools. "Read my lips. No selection, either by examination or by interview under a Labour government," he said. But the party's education policy document makes it clear that the party will leave it open to local councils to preserve existing grammar schools.

St Olave's has a 175-pupil sixth form, with 96 per cent going on to higher education. It is a 400-year-old school which was founded by Southwark pensioners, originally in the London borough.

### IN BRIEF

**Ferry siege ends**  
Seven pro-Chechen gunmen who hijacked a Black Sea ferry in a Turkish port three days ago freed their hostages and surrendered. Page 10

**Homeless row**  
The Government is to press ahead with controversial plans to change the laws affecting homeless people. Page 6

**Rail cut fears**  
Labour accused the Government of opening the way to severe cuts in rail services by allowing "lightly used" trains to be phased out. Page 7

**Today's weather**  
Cloudy and cold with rain in western areas. Page 2



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## THE MAXWELL TRIAL

## acquitted, who was really guilty?

'Bully' who never stood in the dock

PAUL VALLELY and JOHN WILLCOCK

There was one man they could not acquit. Robert Maxwell was not in the dock in the trial which ended at the Old Bailey yesterday. But the question of the guilt of the media magnate loomed over the proceedings in which his sons Kevin and Ian were found not guilty of fraud.

The story which emerged over the 121-day hearing was remarkable. The jury heard how the Czech émigré Robert Maxwell built from scratch, through 40 years of aggressive takeovers and mergers, a media empire of more than 400 companies. A "spectacular risk-taker" he turned round companies on the brink of bankruptcy and amassed a personal fortune of more than £1bn by the late 1980s.

For decades the tycoon regarded these 400 companies as a single entity, to do with as he pleased. But when the empire crashed following Maxwell's death, astonished bankers and accountants discovered his pension funds were left with a "black hole" of over £400m in missing funds.

The portrait which was compiled of the man at the centre of this egotistical spider's web was of a bully who imposed his will on his family, his employees and the banks and professional advisers upon whom he relied. He was a man who lied readily and who took delight in humiliating his staff.

But most of all he was a man who manoeuvred and manipulated to an extent which made the heads of those around him spin. No one ever knew quite what he was up to until he died, when his entire empire crashed - leaving thousands of pensioners in penury.

Robert Maxwell was a bully from his earliest days. Kevin Maxwell told the court of a father who could switch from great charm to brutal verbal bullying. "I was in awe of him as a child. I was very frightened."

He was a man from whom his two convicted sons never managed to escape. As the empire expanded Kevin Maxwell, and his brother Ian, were moved by their father from one part of his business concerns to another.

Before long the magnate decided that Kevin, though his youngest son, was the more suitable to inherit his mantle. In 1991 Kevin, now experienced in corporate finance, was made second-in-command and was well-placed to witness his father's domineering techniques at close hand. "The domination was in part physical, part charismatic, and also he dominated by virtue of his success," he told the court.

It was a desire to control others which drove Robert Maxwell. He was a man possessed by business. He had no interests outside: it consumed his life. "He wasn't motivated by money, he was motivated by power - the ability to influence events," said Kevin. "To do so he systematically robbed individuals of their dignity - even forcing senior directors to open mail in the mail room at Pergamon Press."

Power was what turned Maxwell into a bully. But the court also heard that Peter Laister, then a director of MCC and a former head of Thorn EMI, wrote to Maxwell setting out the board's worries about the sheer scale of the inter-company loans and foreign exchange deals. Over £100m was outstanding at one point.

Not everyone was fooled. Kevin Maxwell was forced to admit to the court that he was aware that there was a "Max factor" in the City where Maxwell assets were not regarded with the same respect as other media companies. To maintain credibility Kevin Maxwell admitted that he had

Maxwell on. So much so that he kept as much as possible to himself. "He would frequently take decisions on his own without consultation and everybody in the business would then deal with whatever he had decided to do," Kevin revealed. Even as No 2 Kevin was not permitted to sign a letter, to sign off a deal, without his father's express authorisation. "Ultimately, the decisions were taken by him. Our role was to advise him, to implement the decisions that he gave us to deal with."

For the last 10 years of his life Maxwell appointed himself as "a one-man committee" of the board of his private company Robert Maxwell Group (RMG). The business of the company was not run through the board with the result was that Maxwell's unpredictable and inconsistent character was projected into a business empire in which sudden and substantial strategic changes of direction were commonplace.

All of which provided easy cover for Robert Maxwell regularly to transfer funds from cash-generating parts of his empire to cash-poor parts, classifying these transfers as loans in order to avoid having to pay tax on them. By 1990, a total of £683m was owed by different parts of the company to each other.

When Mirror Group Newspapers was floated in 1991 the debt to it from other companies in the Maxwell empire, amounting to hundreds of millions of pounds, was wiped out by MGN simply paying a dividend of the same size as the debt owed to it, the court was told.

How proper was this? Throughout the trial Kevin Maxwell claimed that such inter-company loans were entirely normal business practice, and that the group's auditors and bankers knew about them

and accepted them. But the court also heard that Peter Laister, then a director of MCC and a former head of Thorn EMI, wrote to Maxwell setting out the board's worries about the sheer scale of the inter-company loans and foreign exchange deals. Over £100m was outstanding at one point.

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subject preoccupied the meeting: what would happen if the group went bust? A solicitor explained that once a director knew the company was going into insolvent liquidation he was obliged to do everything he could to minimise potential loss. The directors decided the group could carry on trading solvently if it rolled over debts and disposed of assets.

The emergency plan did not work. Asset sales failed to meet projected targets. It was at this point that Maxwell made his fatal mistake and pillaged the Maxwell pension funds to support his em-



Maxwell: The man who manoeuvred and manipulated to such an extent that no one knew what he was up to, in the Connaught Rooms in London

Photograph: David Rose

lied to bankers and the pressure to lie mounted with the pressure on the business empire's finances. By July 1991, Robert Maxwell was living hand to mouth. The worldwide recession was hitting his operations both in MGN UK and in MCC in the US. The third leg of the empire, the privately owned family companies which traded as RMG, had a £1bn debt.

In July 1991 Robert Maxwell chaired a board meeting of RMG, the private group of family companies, which then owed £845m to the banks. One

of how monstrous on 5 November 1991 when Robert Maxwell fell his yacht.

The next day Kevin told a meeting of his company's bankers that he was planning a fire sale to raise money. Kevin was asked by one of Maxwell's top pensions administrators, Trevor Cook, for the proceeds of the Scitex shares, which had been sold in October. He

replied that he did not know where the proceeds were. On 8 November came the second share operation which prompted the conspiracy to defraud charge against Kevin, Ian Maxwell, and Larry Trachtenberg. The three were accused of agreeing to pledge 25m shares in Teva, an Israeli pharmaceutical company, against a £75m loan to RMG from NatWest

Bank. Again the shares were owned by BIM on behalf of the pensioners.

The trio's defence during the trial was that they all believed the Teva shares belonged to RMG. Again the jury decided that they too were the victims rather than the perpetrators of a deceit. After Maxwell's death, the share price of the public

Maxwell companies plummeted but Kevin believed the group could be saved, but two weeks later the accountants reported £400m was missing at BIM.

It took six months for the authorities to pick their way through the debris and issue warrants for the arrest of the brothers. By then, their father had, presumably, already had to answer to a higher authority.

On 4 July 1991, Robert Maxwell had signed - on behalf of RMG - a contract with BIM to buy 3.4m shares in Scitex. Maxwell already owned a chunk of the shares but wanted to sell them together as a single lot to get a better price. There was a key clause at the end of the contract: "Until settlement is made, the shares will continue to belong to BIM and beneficial ownership will not be transferred to RMG." In the event RMG never paid for the Scitex shares.

Kevin's defence during the trial was that the clause at the end had been deleted by his father, so that the transfer of ownership was not dependent on BIM receiving payment.

The jury believed him. The megalomaniac magnate had acted alone on the fraud as on so much else. Meanwhile, back at MCC Robert Maxwell's fellow directors were getting worried. They began to meet behind Maxwell's back to discuss their concerns about the level of inter-company debt between MCC and the private Maxwell companies.

When Maxwell heard of the secret meetings he flew into a towering rage claiming, Kevin told the court, that they were "acting as a cabal against the company's interest, which he considered monstrous."

The world was only to find

never occurred to me that [my father] would have committed suicide ... I wasn't thinking on those lines and never did," Kevin said.

"We do not accept Robert Maxwell killed himself," said Mr Jones, but how he died remains an enigma that will haunt the brothers forever. As will the regret that Kevin feels that he was unable to save his father's group from ruin.

During the court case, he told jurors that Robert Maxwell genuinely believed the pension fund assets were his own to play with.

"Our motivation was not to put it crudely, to sit down and conspire to defraud the pensioners," he said. "It was to save the group. It was to maintain the value of the assets and to meet the obligations."

"I suppose that is my greatest regret, that at the end we failed ... No sane person would want to be at the Central Criminal Court on trial for conspiracy to defraud pensioners."

Maxwell's *Lady Ghislaine*, from which he fell in 1991

Accident, suicide or murder; the truth may rest in peace

FROM FRONT PAGE enormous degree of laxity in the care and control of the money which belonged to the pensioners. People have now been seen to have got away with that."

The saddest thing of all, he said, was that the whole sorry episode could happen again. "The new Pensions Act doesn't go far enough," he said. "If someone is determined to misuse pension funds, there is still nothing to stop them. At least if something positive had come out of all this it would be some consolation. But nothing has."

That was not something with which the brothers Maxwell concerned themselves last night. Kevin, who was hankering to the tune of £400m in 1992, can look forward to being discharged within a year and both can expect lucrative careers in business.

Even during their darkest hours, neither brother lived in penury. Home for Kevin has been a 14-bedroom 16th-century mansion in Berkshire. The property, set in 10 acres on the banks of the Thames, was bought for him and his family by Mr Warnford-Davis, his wife Pandora's father.

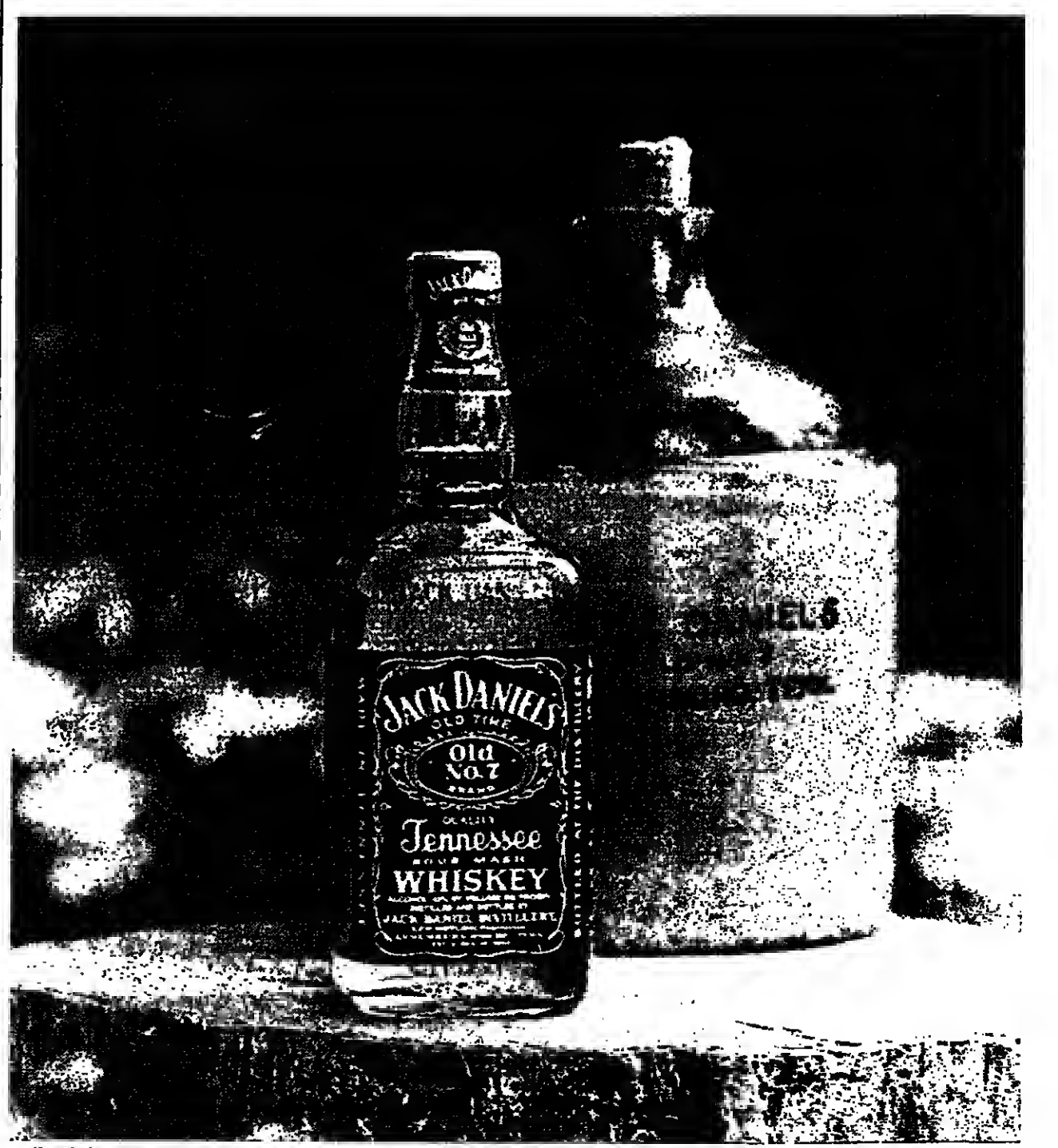
Four of their five children still attend private schools. Ian and Laura Maxwell have been living more modestly in a rented house in Islington, north London. Both brothers have been working for Westbourne Communications, a business consultancy based in Mayfair and run, according to documents at Companies House, by Jean Baddeley, Robert Maxwell's former personal assistant.

If they have their future planned out, they have not said so, but publishers and newspapers are expected to begin clamouring for their story. Their mother, Elizabeth, is reported to have received £100,000 for her memoirs, published last year by Pan Macmillan. Yesterday, one respected literary agent said bidding for the brothers' story would be in six figures.

"It could top a million," he said. "It's a rip-roaring story. All the big publishing houses will be bidding."

If it is ever published, the last chapter may well record the mystery of their father's death ... and Kevin's only regret. ... As Alan Jones QC said, in outlining Kevin's defence, there was no evidence to support the belief that Maxwell's death was suicide "by a man who knew that the game was up". And there lies the heart of the mystery. No one knows exactly what happened on board the *Lady Ghislaine*. Forensic evidence supports the accident or murder theories, and Kevin testified that the spot from which his father fell was without a guard rail.

When his youngest son - whom Maxwell had marked to take control of his empire - first heard of his father's death he thought it might have been an accident, murder, or that there had been a robbery motive. "It



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## IN BRIEF

Bob Stoker, materials and quality manager for Imperial Tobacco, said: "He comes across certainly as very sincere, honest and open, but the question ... is can he keep Labour totally under his control? ..."

Once he gets into Government, he may have to bow to others."

The Labour leader was very eloquent, said Simon Bold of the chartered accountants Pannell Kerr Forster. "He believes in what he says, but what about the people on his left wing?"

Not all of the Blair message fell on stony ground. Mr Stoker said: "If the stakeholder economy is about the workforce, about working together, then I am totally in favour."

But Calum MacDonald, MP for the Western Isles, warned northerners about the dangers of moving to "Stormoway time". Mid-winter sunrises in London would be delayed to 9.05am as occurs in Stormoway at present. "They will find it a dark and depressing and very miserable experience."

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6  
news

# Outcry over Bill to end family housing priority

NICHOLAS TIMMINS  
Public Policy Editor

The Government yesterday pressed ahead with its plans to reshape legislation covering the homeless, to bitter protests from housing groups and the promise of outright opposition from Labour.

There are signs that the Tory whips are not entirely confident of carrying the measure in a Housing Bill which has in effect been split in two after it threatened to be the biggest piece of legislation ever laid before Parliament. A second Bill covering construction and regeneration measures will be introduced into the Lords next month.

Because of the size of the Bill, David Curry, the Housing Minister, said yesterday that plans to give grants to private companies to build housing association-type homes, and the rent regulation that would go with that, have been postponed. Although the measures will be considered for the next session of Parliament, the electoral timetable makes it unlikely they will reach the statute book.

The biggest controversy,

however, will be the removal of the duty on councils to give priority for permanent homes to homeless families. Instead they will be provided with temporary housing, which could be in the private sector, for 12 months, renewable if they are still homeless for another 12 months. Any extension beyond that will have to be in the private sector. They will take their place alongside others – including childless couples – on the waiting list for permanent accommodation.

Mr Curry argued yesterday that that would retain a safety net while providing greater fairness. Permanent homes would be allocated on the basis of need, not its cause.

Shelter argued that the measure "strikes at the very heart of family life" by forcing families with children into expensive temporary private lets.

John Perry, director of policy at the Institute of Housing, said homeless families would face repeated moves, disrupting children's education, in a regime likely to produce different provision in different local authorities.

Nick Raynsford, Labour's

housing spokesman, predicted that the end result would be families – not just single people and couples – on the streets.

Some parts of the Bill won widespread support – notably new powers for local authorities to set up housing companies which will take over council stock but have access to private capital to refurbish them, and measures to make it easier for landlords to deal with anti-social tenants.

Housing benefit fraud may be costing £1bn a year, according to a study released by the Department of Social Security yesterday. That loss, around 10 per cent of the housing benefit bill, is on top of the £1.4bn in unemployment benefit and income support fraud identified by an earlier study.

From July a national register will match data across local authorities, catching people who claim in more than one local authority area. Councils are being offered a £10m challenge fund to develop anti-fraud measures. New incentives for councils to detect fraud and more work by the Audit Commission are also being introduced.

## Gallery proves Fools' Gold is real thing



Metal protectors: Conservators at the Tate Gallery, London, checking a sculpture by Bill Woodrow for his exhibition, 'Fools' Gold'. The show will consist of 15 works in bronze on the theme of survival and runs from 23 January to 28 April. Photograph: Nicholas Turpin

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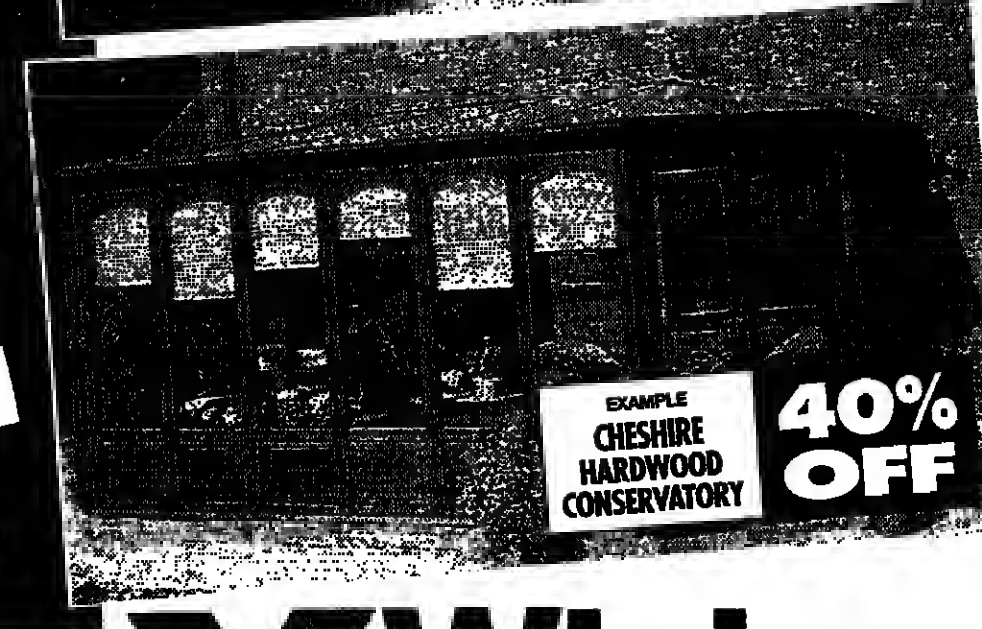
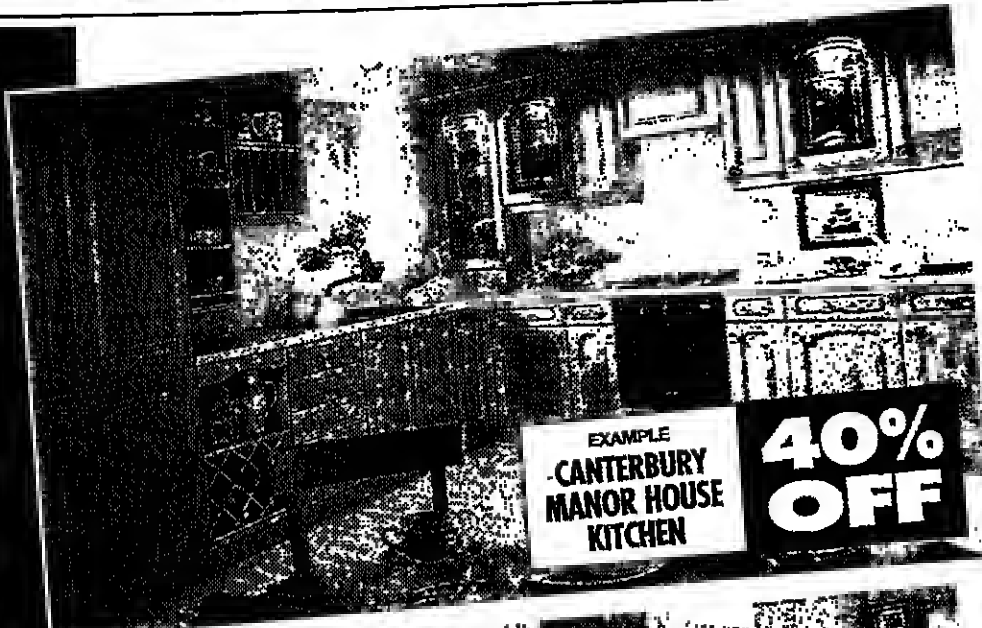
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## Tories 'paving way' for deep rail cuts

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR  
Transport Correspondent

The Government has opened the way to severe cuts in rail services by allowing "lightly used" trains to be phased out, Labour warned yesterday.

Sir George Young, Secretary of State for Transport, was forced to reissue his instructions to the franchising director, Roger Salmon, last week following the partly successful challenge to the Save Our Railways campaign.

But Labour claims the new instructions, instead of preserving services, will enable Mr Salmon to omit trains from his contract specifications "where you judge that a train is excep-

tionally lightly used" and if it is not providing an essential service. Mr Salmon must also assure himself that the service is not "good value for money".

Already several early and late trains, and a few services such as the InterCity train linking Paddington with Carmarthen, have been omitted from the specifications drawn up for the first seven franchises, three of which have been allocated to private operators.

The Court of Appeal case focused on the extent to which Mr Salmon had to base his minimum levels of services for private operators on the existing BR timetable. The court had decided that under previous Government instructions, only very small variations were allowed.

Hugh Bayley, Labour MP for York, argues that the amended instructions break government commitments to ensure that privatisation does not lead to rail cuts. He said: "When the rail privatisation legislation was going through three years ago, ministers repeatedly promised there would be no cuts to services and that services would be based on the existing timetable. This is now shown to be a lie".

Mr Bayley said that in 1993, rail managers had drawn up a list of lines which they expected to close as "the first casualties of privatisation". These include: Ipswich to Lowestoft and Norwich to Sheringham; Truro to Falmouth; St Erith to St Ives; Por to Newquay; Exeter to Barnstaple; Hull to Scar-

borough and Whitby to Middlesbrough; Aberystwyth to Shrewsbury and Llandudno to Blaenau Ffestiniog; Carlisle to Barrow-in-Furness and Barrow-in-Furness to Sellafield.

However, Mr Salmon argues that in the initial franchises, the number of cuts to trains has been very small and that in fact the successful bidder for the InterCity lines out of Paddington has agreed to reinstate the direct Carmarthen service.

Keith Bill of Save Our Railways, said that his organisation would decide next week whether or not to launch another court action. He said: "Sir George had the chance to make sure there would be no cuts and instead he has paved the way for out and out cuts."

## Lonely Joans try to entice a Darby or two

Desperate moves are afoot to persuade a Welsh town's macho menfolk to embrace the local Darby and Joan club, writes Richard Smith.

The group currently boasts 25 Joans and not a single Darby—only two men have turned up at the club in Hay-on-Wye, Powys,

since it was founded in 1954. Now its organisers are to introduce darts and pool at the Monday afternoon get-togethers to try to entice men in.

"It's the Joan club at the moment," said Sandra Havard, its co-ordinator. "Certainly in the three years I've been responsi-

ble for the group I have never seen any men—and I wish I knew why."

Richard Booth, 57, who owns a bookshop in Hay, believes he has the answer to why men have snubbed the club. "I think it's probably rural resistance to a suburban institution," he said.

"A lot of the old men in Hay prefer to just sit in the pub—they sip their beer and die. Many of them were highly esteemed manual workers living in a male world. They would lose their role and identity in a Darby and Joan club. I wouldn't go, so I suppose I'm typical."



Light as a feather: A model at Hong Kong Fashion Week yesterday displaying a lace and feather outfit designed by William Tang. Photograph: AP/Vincent Yu

## Lloyds couple face ruin

A couple who successfully sued Lloyds Bank for offering bad mortgage advice yesterday facing financial ruin after a judge ordered them to pay the bank more than £250,000.

Judge Robert Taylor, who earlier ordered Lloyds to pay £77,529 damages to Julia Verity, 55, and Richard Spindler, 36, told the couple to pay the bank's costs plus £27,000 in debts.

The ruling at the High Court in Leeds wipes out the compensation figure and leaves the couple bankrupt if an appeal against the decision fails. But outside the court yesterday, Ms Verity and Mr Spindler said they saw their five-year battle with the bank as a moral victory.

Ms Verity said: "It looks as if we will have to leave our home and we are financially ruined. We have an enormous strange feeling of relief that it is over and we can now enjoy ourselves, even if we have to enjoy ourselves as tramps."

"We have no regrets and we have fought this for other people, not just ourselves. We were badly advised and we have proved that in court. We now only owe the bank £27,000 whereas before they were claiming £150,000. But it is the legal costs which have gone against us."

Mr Spindler said: "We were always fighting as a matter of principle and we believe we still are right. We have been strong and stood up to the bank and we do not regret doing that."

The couple started the action after they were advised to take out a mortgage on a house in Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, which they bought for £150,000 and intended to sell a year on for a £10,000 profit. But the property market slumped and they were forced to sell the house for a £20,000 loss.

The court heard that the couple had refused cash offers to settle out of court and in applying for costs Gregory Mitchell, acting for Lloyds, said: "The court should not have any sympathy as they are the authors of their own misfortune and they only have themselves to blame because they should have settled."

Judge Taylor deferred execution on his ruling for an appeal to be lodged.

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**Photographs: Rob Stratton**

public alerted staff to a man behaving suspiciously. And on the Thursday before Christmas a ranger, Allison Lloyd, and a volunteer, Robert Jones, were tipped off that three men were climbing over the boundary wall. Night sights helped track them down but the suspects escaped.

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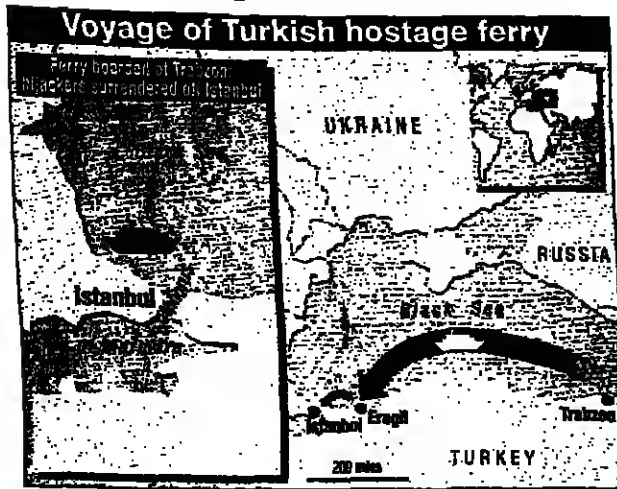


## international

Chechen crisis: Gunmen surrender ferry after Ankara toughens stance, as Yeltsin praises bombardment of rebel-held village

## Hijackers free Black Sea hostages

## Chechen leader escapes to hills

HUGH POPE  
Istanbul

Seven pro-Chechen gunmen who hijacked a Black Sea ferry surrendered just after nightfall last night. All 200 passengers on board, mostly Russian tourists and traders, apparently were safe.

Surrendering three days after seizing the ferry in the Turkish port of Trabzon, the gunmen were taken in a launch to a naval base. The hijackers had already dropped demands for an end to the Russian assault on the Chechen hostage-takers in Dagestan. They freed 13 informants during the day, including the one person injured in the hijacking.

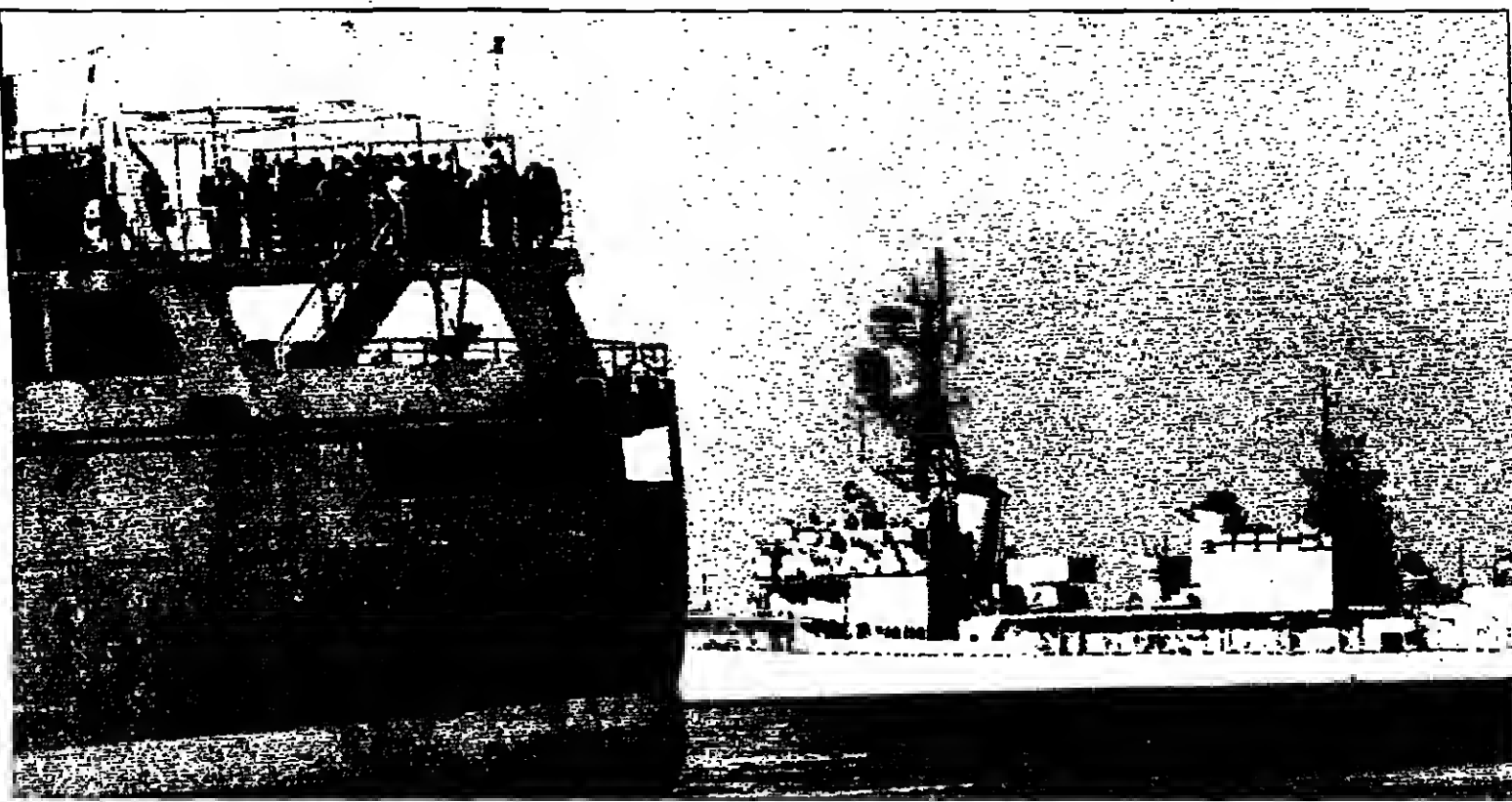
"We are like dynamite. We are ready to blow up," one hijacker had snapped over the radio, when talks took a bad turn. But the atmosphere had a sweetness at most other times.

The chief hijacker, Muhammad Toksan, called the admiral shadowing him "my commander," while the admiral replied with comments like "don't worry, my dear."

The hijackers spent the afternoon negotiating by radio outside the entrance to the Bosphorus strait. Their white ferry circled slowly between grey Turkish frigates, coast-guard cutters and fishing boats commandeered by camera crews and groups of Turks who supported the hijackers.

While the government was demanding the hijackers surrender, the groups of supporters gathered at both sides of the mouth of the Bosphorus to dance Caucasian jigs and cheer.

At a big Islamist, anti-Russian demonstration after Friday prayers at Istanbul's Beyazıt mosque, demonstrators shouted: "Chechnya will be the Russians' graveyard."

Hoping for freedom: Hostages on board the ferry *Avrasya* in the Bosphorus with a Turkish warship in close attendance

Photograph: AP

Many suspect the hijackers have an Islamist background, since as their hand-signs were the same as those of violent fundamentalists and their weapons are of the type found in raids on Islamist training camps. Mr Toksan is wanted by the police over a bomb attack on a pair of businessmen in Trabzon who allegedly refused to pay him protection money.

Aware of the need to prove its anti-terrorist credentials, Turkey toughened its position towards the hijackers' demand to sail down the Bosphorus to a press conference. "The militants must surrender and trust in Turkish justice," the caretaker Prime Minister, Tansu Ciller, said after a meeting with military chiefs. The Chechen leader, Dzhokhar Du-

dayev, said the hijackers had made their point and that further resistance would only harm the Chechen cause.

The lasting memory of the hijacking for most Turks will be the discovery of how many people in the country can trace their roots to the Caucasus — 3 to 8 million of the country's 65 million people — and how many turned out to support the

Chechens. As President Süleyman Demirel said: "We cannot escape our history."

The hijacked ferry was called the *Avrasya*, or *Eurasia*, an irony lost on few Turkish commentators. The name symbolised the hopes in the early 1990s for a pivotal region, joining former Soviet Muslim states, Black Sea countries and the Middle East. Instead, the

seizure of the *Avrasya* showed up all the Christian-Muslim cracks, not to mention the contradictions in Turkey itself.

Ankara (AP) — Necmettin Erbakan, leader of the Welfare Party, the Islamic party that won elections last month, on Friday gave up trying to form a governing coalition. Mr Demirel asked Mrs Ciller to try to put together another coalition.

PHIL REEVES  
Moscow

Boris Yeltsin was adamant yesterday that the bombardment of Pervomayskoye was a "well-planned and executed" operation, despite indications that Salman Raduyev — leader of the band of hostage-taking rebels who incurred the Kremlin's wrath — escaped to the hills of Chechnya.

The Russian authorities have admitted they do not know the whereabouts of the red-bearded Raduyev, whose initial raid on the Dagestani town of Kizlyar 12 days ago precipitated a stand-off that ended after the Kremlin ordered the military to flatten nearby Pervomayskoye — where the raiders moved with their hostages.

As contradictory and questionable figures for the numbers of dead and living continued to swirl around — Mr Yeltsin said that 153 rebels out of a 300-strong group were killed, while 82 hostages escaped or were freed — Russian troops moved in to clear the wrecked village.

Several Chechen separatists, including Aslan Maskhadov, chief of staff to the rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev, contend that Raduyev and some of his fellow fighters blasted their way through Russian lines and escaped. There were unconfirmed reports that they may still hold some of the hostages from Pervomayskoye.

However, there was no sign that such awkward issues would derail Mr Yeltsin from his view that the assault was an outright success. "The operation was planned and carried out correctly," he said, while praising his two top security officials in charge of the operation. Mikhail Barsukov, head of the Federal Security Service (FSB), and Anatoly Kudikov, the Interior Minister, had "carried out their missions well", he said.

The President was doing his utmost to try to salvage the best from the Pervomayskoye affair by vowing to crack down on the separatists. Known "nests of Chechen terrorism" would be "destroyed" because they "were stuffed with arms and pose a great threat", he said. He praised as "apt" a remark in a Russian newspaper that "mad dogs" — the Chechen rebels — "should be shot".

Whether all this rhetoric will do him much good remains doubtful and it seems that he has yet to find the form he will need for Yeltsin's presidential elections. The conservative constituency he is trying to woo will not have been impressed by the apparent failure of the Russian army to oust Raduyev.

## Fog of battle clouds Pervomayskoye's ugly truth

TONY BARBER  
Europe Editor

A dense fog of propaganda, rumours and contradictory reports surrounded the 10-day hostage drama in Dagestan, making it virtually impossible to distinguish what really happened from accounts supplied by the Russian authorities and the Chechen rebels.

However, it seemed likely yesterday that, from the Russian point of view, the confrontation had ended in a far from satisfactory manner, with

dozens of rebels eluding the forces that bombarded them for four days, escaping into Chechnya and taking some hostages with them.

In all, more than 200 people appear to have been killed since the crisis erupted on 9 January, making it one of the bloodiest episodes since President Boris Yeltsin sent troops into Chechnya in December 1994 to suppress the north Caucasian republic's attempted secession. According to Mr Yeltsin, the dead include 153 rebels, 27 Russian troops and 24 civilians

killed in the town of Kizlyar, where the Chechens seized their first group of hostages.

However, Mr Yeltsin omitted yesterday to specify whether the ferocious four-day battle at the village of Pervomayskoye, near Kizlyar, had caused the deaths of any hostages there. He said 82 hostages had been freed and 18 were missing and presumed alive, but since the Russian Interior Ministry stated last Sunday that the Chechens were holding 116 hostages at Pervomayskoye, this would indicate that 16 to 34 hostages are either

dead or still in Chechen hands. To complicate matters, the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernenko, said last Wednesday that only 42 hostages had been freed and none remained in the village. If this is accurate, then 56 to 74 hostages were either killed in the battle or are still Chechen prisoners.

Similar uncertainty surrounds the number of Chechen rebels who died or escaped from Pervomayskoye. The Russian Federal Security Service, successor to the KGB, and the Interior Ministry gave

several conflicting estimates of how many guerrillas were holed up in the village, ranging from 150 to 250.

If only 150 rebels were there, then Mr Yeltsin was exaggerating yesterday when he said 153 had been killed and 28 captured (he later revised this figure to 30). But if 250 rebels were in Pervomayskoye, then according to Mr Yeltsin's figures up to 70 must have escaped — unless a lot more bodies are buried under the rubble.

If, as seems possible, the leader of the hostage-taking operation, Salman Raduyev, is among those who escaped, then the Russian military operation looks even less successful. A spokesman for Chechnya's leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev, said yesterday that Mr Raduyev had crossed from Dagestan into Chechnya with some fellow fighters and hostages, including, humbly for Mr Yeltsin, several elite Interior Ministry troops (Omon) whom the rebels captured last week on the outskirts of Pervomayskoye.

Mr Raduyev sparked the

showdown on 9 January by leading a pre-dawn raid on the Pervomayskoye helicopter base at Kizlyar, from which he said Russian forces had launched attacks on rebel positions inside Chechnya. The raid turned into a hostage crisis as the rebels, whose numbers were estimated at 200 to 500, stormed Kizlyar hospital and seized up to 3,000 captives.

The rebels initially demanded the removal of all Russian forces from Chechnya as the condition for freeing the hostages, but within hours they had dropped this in favour of a guarantee of safe passage across the Dagestan border to their homeland. By the following morning, they were thought to hold about 160 hostages as they made their way in a convoy of buses and trucks towards the border.

According to Dagestan's Interior Ministry, the rebels stopped near Pervomayskoye because Russian helicopters had fired on the convoy and blown up a bridge on its agreed route. The Chechens then pro-

voked Russian wrath by seizing 37 Omon troops who had been sent from the Siberian city of Novosibirsk to operate near the Chechen-Dagestani border.

Along with more than 50 hostages from Kizlyar hospital and a number of local villagers, the Omon troops were held in the mosque and school at Pervomayskoye. According to some reports, the rebels forced the Omon men to help them strengthen their defences by digging trenches in and around the village.

The Russian authorities justified their decision to attack the village last Monday by saying the rebels had started to execute the Omon men and some Dagestani elders brought in to start negotiations. However, no freed hostage has confirmed the Russian version of events.

As with the Chechen hostage-taking episode last June in the southern Russian city of Budynovsk, where more than 100 people were killed, many questions remain about why so much blood had to be spilled for the crisis to end.

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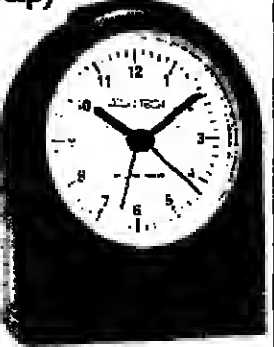
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## Squaddies warned: your enemy is the Bosnian roads

### BALKAN DAYS

"Croats welcome I-For/Nato," proclaims the sign at Split airport. But Nato is going to have to improve its driving if it wants to stay welcome.

As British troops pour into former Yugoslavia to make up nearly a third of the peace implementation force, I-For, they face a stern reminder that the biggest danger is not bullets or mine but road accidents.

In the four weeks since I-For took over from the United Nations on 20 December, there have been 87 road accidents, resulting in 21 write-offs, including even container vehicles. About 60 per cent of the accidents had "no civilian interest whatsoever" - they were I-For fault, or involved only the force's vehicles. In that time, there have been 19 military casualties, one civilian death and one civilian left in a coma.

The British have 7,000 vehicles in their part of the theatre and are by no means the worst offenders. The Americans, new to the region, and the French

have also experienced the hazards of a run-down road system in an unforgiving climate that has suddenly met the largest influx of heavy armour since the Gulf war. Not only are 60,000 I-For troops pouring in, but the former UN Protection Force is pouring out.

"It's congestion up there, to say the least," said Sergeant-Major Ian Ford, briefing a new British contingent on the conditions. "You'll have a 2,000ft cliff on one side and a 700ft drop on the other. You'll hit snow, ice, white-outs. You name it, you'll hit it," he continued.

"If you only have two snow-chains, please put them both on the same axle," the officer warned. "There have been vehicles spotted in Bosnia with one snow chain on the front left and another on the back right. That's about as much use as a chocolate fireguard. OK?"

Then there was a surprising concession: Many accidents were due to tiredness. "It's often said that on an operation hours don't matter," Sergeant-Major Ford said. "They do matter. If you feel tired and about to nod off at any time, you stop and you pull over and you rest. The operation can take second place for a bit."

Of the 13,000 British troops due to form part of the Implementation Force, 9,000 have now arrived. Split is the main airport and seaport and most troops fly in here, on RAF Tri-Star flights, as if they were on a civil airline, complete with cooked meals, refreshing towels and in-flight magazines.

Everyone is processed through a "Theatre Reception Centre" located in a big, draughty hangar south of the airport. Everyone goes through the procedure: even Major-

General Mike Jackson, the British sector commander, as well as soldiers on their third six-month tour. Here in the TRC, the sergeant-major, with his didactic skill, is king.

"Form a circle round the briefing board. Welcome, gentlemen - whoops, sorry ma'am, ladies and gentlemen. Right, first you will get the road safety briefing, then the medical briefing. There is no smoking in the TRC. If you want a fag, go out of the door. Then you will move in the direction of the arrow and swipe your card through the machine. You will collect your I-For identity card. Then you can grab some tea or soup. You will collect your luggage and the sniffer dog will have a sniff - see if he can find the £10,000 in used notes. Any questions?"

The sniffer dog, a King Charles spaniel called Zack, who looked more like a pet, was part of a "deterrent policy" against drug use. All British soldiers are liable to be tested for drugs at any time. Zack frolicked around as his military police handler sat quietly in the corner.

The new, credit-card style army identity card, with a hologram and a magnetic strip, con-



Driving ambition: Royal Marines in Bosnia. Road accidents, not bullets, are the biggest danger. Photograph: Reuters

tain all the vital information about the individual.

The "swipe" serves to book people in to the theatre of operations, with all their details, including medical records, blood group, whatever - hence the precise count of how many

had arrived. The yellowish I-For cards are numbered and only state name, rank, number and nationality.

"Well, have a good tour," said the sergeant-major. "I'm leaving in two days. There are two ways of leaving here. One is the

way you came - and the way I'm going: up the steps, with a big smile on your face. The other is six of your mates carrying you in a box across the tarmac. Got it?"

Christopher Bellamy

## Croats and Serbs agree to swap prisoners

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY  
Sipovo

As dusk fell last night at Black Dog, the freezing crossing point between Bosnian Serb and Muslim-Croat territory, 16 Croat prisoners held by the Serbs were expected from the north. At the same time, 220 Serbs, mostly captured by the Croats in the summer offensive, were on the way northwards from Mostar.

Red Cross and British Army personnel were optimistic that about half the number of prisoners from all three former warring factions in the British sector might be exchanged before midnight. Apart from the release of all prisoners of war, most conditions of the Dayton peace agreement that had to be completed by midnight had been fulfilled.

The Chief of Defence Staff, Field Marshal Sir Peter Inge, visiting the headquarters of the British 4th Armoured Brigade, at Sipovo, said there were "many more plusses than minuses." He added: "The big issue, of course, is the prisoners of war." The peace implementation force, I-For, does not officially recognise the idea of exchange. Prisoner release is supposed to be unconditional. But in Bosnia prisoners are a form of currency, albeit a rare one as few were taken alive. Yesterday's attempts to secure the release of about 250, half the total in the British area, were between Croats and Serbs. The Muslims have still shown no sign of moving on this most delicate of issues.

The British component of I-For remained adamant that its primary task is to secure the large area held by Bosnian Croats that is to be vacated by

3 March and handed over to the Serbs. It will not be drawn into investigating war crimes allegations. Field Marshal Inge said. "Every commander to whom I've spoken says they simply don't have the resources and the ability to do detailed investigations. That is up to the [UN] tribunal. What they mustn't do is take them away from their primary task, which is implementation of the Dayton agreement."

Another delicate issue was apparent yesterday as we drove into the area to be handed back to the Serbs. Sipovo was not wrecked by fighting but by the Croats after the Serbs fled. Smoke rose from houses in the deserted town along the road now lined by I-For direction signs. British soldiers at Sipovo said they had seen six houses afire on Thursday night.

From yesterday I-For is responsible for "securing" the area. But it is not clear what that means and there is disagreement about it within the Nato force. Some say it means military security, not law and order. But Major Chris Claridge, who commands the Royal Fusiliers, said he was the *de facto* keeper of the peace in the area.

"There are no authorities at the moment," he said. It was not his role to stop looters and arsonists, he said. But it was "an implied task". He went on: "We are trying to stop them. If we see someone looting a house, we photograph them. We tell them, 'If we see that house burning, we'll come after you.' Such evidence will also be of use to new civil authorities when they are established."

"It's not an I-For responsibility," he added, "but until the local authorities are set up I-For will do what it can."

# a question of sport

How many of the following sports still suffer from a lack of investment - rugby league, football, cricket, golf, basketball?



( for the answer, turn over the page )

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# international

## Palestine votes on road to statehood

PATRICK COCKBURN  
Jerusalem

Palestinians from Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem go to the polls today to elect the first president and legislative council in their history. For Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, it is a critical milestone on the road to a Palestinian state.

Some of the remaining obstacles were seen yesterday at a roadblock near the West Bank town of Jenin when Israeli soldiers killed three Palestinians in a car. Palestinian security services said they were members of the Islamic militant group Hamas and were shot after they opened fire, wounding an Israeli soldier.

A million Palestinians go to 1,698 polling stations, where they will receive two slips, one to vote for the president, almost certain to be Mr Arafat, and white for the 88-member legislative council. A week after the election the council will meet, probably in Gaza, where it will elect an executive.

The poll will see the burial of two options the Palestinians have always feared: absorption, possibly followed by expulsion, by Israel, or a return to Jordanian rule as it was before the 1967 war. A senior member of Fatah, the main Palestinian political movement, said yesterday: "This is the end of the idea of greater Israel or greater Jordan. This is the most important result of the election."

It will also serve as a referendum on the Oslo accords. The secular opposition and, with less conviction, the political wing of Hamas, have called for a boycott. Turn-out figures will therefore be a sign of the support for deals reached by the Palestinian leadership with Israel since 1993. A 75 per cent turn-out will be good for Mr Arafat; anything below 60 per cent will be bad. Figures may be affected by the rain and sleet which has hit the West Bank in the past few days turning roads into mud.

Last-minute difficulties over

voting in Jerusalem appear to have been ironed out. Israel wants to treat Palestinian voters there as if they were postal voters casting their ballots far from their homeland. The aim is not to let the election set a precedent which will damage Israel's claim to sovereignty. The 52,000 Palestinian voters in Jerusalem feared that if they voted they would lose their papers giving them the right to live, work and receive health care in the city. On Thursday Israel's Foreign Ministry finally said Jerusalem residents would not be affected by voting. Agreement has also been reached on ballot boxes in Jerusalem post offices, which are being used as polling stations. Israel wanted



Arafat: Certain to win but pressure is on to win well

the slot at the side, so they looked like post boxes and the Palestinians at the top, so they looked like regular ballot boxes. The deal is said to be that the slot should be at the corner.

Hebron, the one town from which Israeli forces have not withdrawn, may also be the scene of trouble or at least a low turn-out. Troops guarding 500 Israeli settlers during the day will keep a low profile. The settlers themselves say they will not disrupt the election though they will demonstrate in Jerusalem.

The problems of Palestinian opposition to Oslo and the elections were evident in Ramallah, north of Jerusalem,

yesterday. Supporters of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine chanted "No to elections under the shadow of the bayonets of occupation" and demanded the release of 4,000 Palestinian prisoners and an end to the 135 Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. They also demanded the return of Palestinian refugees who lost their land in Israel in 1948.

All Palestinians would agree with these demands but not about their practicality. Ali Zaki, a student from nearby Bir Zeit university, was watching sympathetically but sceptically. "Of course I am going to vote. The election will give us a chance to do something for ourselves. Now that the Israeli troops have left Ramallah I can go for a walk at night without being frightened of getting arrested," he said.

The demonstrators also wanted the release of one of their leaders, Ahmed Yassin, held two days before by Mr Arafat's Preventive Security, one of his security agencies. They said they had been told he would not be freed until after the election, almost certain to be won by Mr Arafat and Fatah, but it is a bad omen for the type of state the new council will rule.

In Hebron, Khalid Amayreh, an Islamic commentator, said: "There is a reign of terror among Palestinian journalists. I know one called Mahmoud who has been reduced to writing under the name of Stephanie Parker." Others see this as an exaggeration. George Hazboun, a candidate in Bethlehem, says he doubts if it would be possible, even if Mr Arafat wanted, to set up an authoritarian state in Palestine along the lines of Syria and Iraq. "From the first years of the intifada, every Palestinian has been interested in politics. We are a much more political people than the Syrians and the Iraqis. It can't be done."



Angry voices: Marchers in Hebron calling for a boycott of today's Palestinian elections

Photograph: AP

## Breakfast with the general in his labyrinth

Yasser Arafat, Nobel Peace Prize winner and electioneer; Ariel Sharon, outcast. More than a decade ago I watched the controversial Israeli Defence Minister stand, khaki-clad, on a mountainside south of Beirut while his artillery thundered across the valleys.

Now an older and bulkier General Sharon, encased in an expensive grey suit, sat across the breakfast table in a gentlemanly London hotel, complaining about his old enemy's transformation.

"I would never have signed an agreement with somebody who by any criteria is a war criminal," he declared. "Arafat has more blood on his hands than anyone I know since the Nazis." The general paused to choose his words with care. "I think this man should have been removed from society," he concluded.

Michael Sheridan breaks bread with Ariel Sharon and hears him denounce the PLO leader he tried so hard to kill

If General Sharon had had his way, Yasser Arafat would have perished in the ruins of Beirut in 1982. Architect and conductor of Israel's invasion of Lebanon, the general - then Menachem Begin's Defence Minister - laid down barracks and sent jet fighters on a lethal manhunt for his PLO quarry. Hundreds of Lebanese and Palestinian civilians perished.

Today he sits as a seething presence on the opposition benches of the Israeli parliament, while his old foe negotiates with Israeli ministers and this weekend, awaits his confirmation as the first elected leader of the Palestinians.

How did the general feel as he pondered these ironies? The massive shoulders and jowls shook, the eyes twinkled. "The

war in Lebanon was a war of salvation - one of the most justified wars we ever took part in," he said defiantly.

But while his Likud party languished in opposition, the Labour government did a deal with Mr Arafat and the PLO, installing in General Sharon's considered view, a terrorist regime in Jericho and Gaza as a prelude to betraying Israel by handing back the Golan Heights to Syria.

The Israeli government "covers up" Mr Arafat's involvement in terrorism, he contended. "They know Arafat is mocking and laughing and joking at them. There are 41 wanted terrorists who killed and injured Israeli citizens and they are sitting in a café in Jericho having a nice coffee and nothing happens."

As if prompted by this thought, he broke off from his lecture to order a coffee.

To listen to General Sharon is to hear the litany of woes of the Israeli right, dating from the "infamous handshake" between the late Yitzhak Rabin and Mr Arafat on the White House lawn. Israel can never trust the Arabs. Even the Egyptian newspapers print material "that Der Stürmer [a Nazi newspaper] could learn from." Five generations of the Sharon family had battled "Arab terror". Peace with Syria would be bought at too high a price. Iran is going nuclear, Iraq chemical, Turkey fundamentalist. Wherever General Sharon looks around the compass he detects a menace that he deems impossible to negotiate away.

In that, he speaks for many on the Israeli right. There is a compelling logic to his simplicities. Like Slobodan Milosevic, he possesses a brutal charm that disarms those convinced that anyone capable of ordering numerous deaths must necessarily be unpleasant in person. General Sharon is untroubled by conscience. He is first and foremost a military man whose performance in Israel's wars made him a national hero - until the Lebanese adventure, that is.

"You know, I was very much impressed by that book about your SAS commandos," he confessed, referring to *Bravo Two Zero*, the Gulf war best-seller. "The special units of your country did the most beautiful things." Given half a chance, the

general would employ Israel's own notable capability in this field to deal with Mr Arafat - "pre-emptive action and hot pursuit", as he calls it.

General Sharon concedes that the assassination of Rabin by a fanatical Israeli rightist set back the cause of the Likud but he is not ready to admit that it may cost it the election later this year. "Likud could close the gap," he said. "People don't want to demonstrate in public but their worries are the same."

Security is his mantra: "The only ones who are asked to pay for peace are the Jews... Can you tell me one country that gave up security measures for peace? I can tell you - the last time was at Munich in 1938." Ariel Sharon, invader of Lebanon, insists he is no hater



Sharon: Now an outcast, while Arafat is feted

of Arabs. He spends much of his time on a farm in Israel's Negev desert, out far from Mr Arafat's squalid demesne in Gaza. "I grew up there among Arabs. As a child I never thought of Arabs as enemies. On our farm Jews and Arabs worked together and were sitting around the table together," he recalled. "We would just like to live in peace - not rest in peace."

### IN BRIEF

#### Nigerian protes group strikes again

Lagos — Explosions rocked Kano airport and a hotel in Kaduna, in northern Nigeria, killing one man, a day after an unknown group, the United Front for Nigeria's Liberation, emerged. The group claimed responsibility for Wednesday's plane crash in Kano which killed the eldest son of its military ruler, General Sani Abacha, and 13 others, saying it signalled the intensification of a campaign to get rid of the Abacha government. *Reuters*

#### Two released

Peking — The brother of Dr Zhang Shuyun, the main source of evidence of starvation at a Shanghai orphanage, was freed after being detained this week. Meanwhile, a leading dissident, Liu Xiaobo, was sent back to his parents in north-east China after more than seven months in police custody without formal charges. *AP*

#### Demob happy

Paris — President Jacques Chirac plans to scrap conscription, a pillar of France's defence policy since the 1789 Revolution, but will maintain civilian forms of compulsory national service, according to Pierre Messmer, a former prime minister. *Reuters*

#### Hutus on the move

Dar es Salaam — Andrew Sokiri, head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Tanzania, said he feared a "massive emergency" as thousands of Rwandans and Burundians fleeing violence in Burundi massed near the border with Tanzania. At least 15,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees have crossed into Tanzania from Burundi since Thursday. *Reuters*

#### Plea for lama

Peking — Amnesty International expressed concern that Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, six, named by the Dalai Lama as the reincarnation of the Panchen Lama, Tibetan Buddhism's second-ranking monk, remains missing for eight months, along with his family. Amnesty said a Tibetan abbot and 50 other monks and lay people were in detention in connection with the disputed succession. *Reuters*

#### No accord on mines

Geneva — A week-long conference on land mines ended without agreement because of differences on controls over the weapons, which maim or kill more than 2,000 people a month. A final attempt to reach agreement will be made in April. *AP*

#### Rape by fantasy

Nashville — "The Fantasy Man", Raymond Mitchell, 45, faces up to 30 years in jail after being convicted of rape by fraud. Two women told how he duped his victims into undressing and agreeing to blindfolded sex because each thought he was her lover. Police believe Mitchell has fooled hundreds of women over the years. Of the 30 women who reported "Fantasy Man", eight said they had intercourse with him. *AP*

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2. The voucher may be redeemed at any participating Minotel hotel featured in the *Independent's* directory (printed on Wednesday 17 January) for one free night's bed and breakfast for two people in a standard twin or double bedded room with a second night's bed and breakfast is pre-purchased at the tariff indicated. All prices shown are per room per night.
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Number of nights to be paid for (half the number shown above) .....  
@ Rack rate of £ ..... per room per night = £ .....

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## Mimi rages at 'cowards' who cheated her of power

ANDREW GUMBEL  
Athens

The pandoreon era in Greece is over, and one woman is feeling the chill wind of change more keenly than anyone.

There has never been much love lost for Dimitra (Mimi) Liani, the air hostess turned First Lady who stole away the most powerful man in Greece and tried to steal a part of his political aura.

It recently the news has been so unrelentingly black for her that she must be hoping someone out there has an ounce of sympathy.

Her husband lies chronically in hospital and has now been superseded as prime minister by Costas Simittis, his bitter critic within the governing party.

She has not been feeling too well herself, after coming down with hepatitis-B.

Andreas Papandreu's resignation this week means Ms Liani has lost her job as head of the prime minister's private office, and with it her entire influence over the political class and public life. She has no chance of being invited to run, as she had hoped, as an honorary Pasok candidate at the next parliamentary elections.

She believes the rest of the Papandreu family, including the American ex-wife Margaret, is plotting to freeze her out of their plans for the future.

If Ms Liani is unlucky, she may lose her sumptuous villa in a posh Athens suburb. If the Greek political class lives up to its reputation for vengeance, she may even be pursued on corruption charges.

And if all that were not enough, the intimate details of her body are known to every household in Greece thanks to some of the country's sleaziest tabloids.

But Ms Liani is not to be daunted. This week she has been fighting back, proclaiming in magazine interviews that she is a survivor and has no intention of being silenced by anyone.

"Those who fight me are so small and cowardly. What are they going to do? Burn me at the stake? Let them," she thundered from her room at the Onassis Clinic, where she has

stayed with Mr Papandreu since he was rushed into intensive care in mid-November.

"They are such cowards, to be sucking up to us and then to be swearing at us."

These days, Ms Liani is all bile and twisted anger at those who have betrayed her. She accuses her step-daughter, Sophia Papandreu, of stealing her intimate photo album and distributing it to the tabloid press. She accuses senior members of the Socialist Pasok party of mounting a criminal conspiracy to trick Mr Papandreu into resigning. And she accuses the whole country of failing to understand her deep love for her husband by mistaking it for naked ambition.

"I am keeping my cool for as long as I can. I may at some point spit on everything and, by God, leave," she said, virtually spitting her words on to print. "But I won't accept to sell my hide for anyone's sake."

So what will she do now? "I can be a charlady. I can scrub stairs," she suggests. "I can live on a lot and I can live on very little. I can sleep on a beach with a rock for a pillow." This is not convincing talk for a woman so obviously attracted to the trappings of wealth and power.

"I keep a file with everything that has been published about me and I will some day write a book if only to show the insanity of these times," she added. Political sources say Ms Liani is also jealously guarding some — but not all — of her husband's private papers as an insurance policy against any conspiracies that might possibly be hatched against her.

She knows that time is running out, since the Greek nation's patience with her is likely to last only as long as her husband stays alive.

But perhaps she will not be treated so roughly after all. Once she is no longer a threat, people might simply forget her.

This week, even George Kouris, the tabloid editor who initiated the recent naked photograph campaign, betrayed a shred of human feeling.

"They will blame her for everything, but not everything is her fault," he said. Coming from him, it could augur a national absolution.



Feeling the cold: Dimitra Liani, air-hostess turned First Lady of Greece, must be hoping that someone out there has a little bit of sympathy for her. Photograph: Reuter

## German angst persists as fire suspects go free

IMRE KARACS  
Bonn

Flowers appeared yesterday

around the blackened hulk of Lübeck's immigrant hostel where 10 people, eight of them from a single family, perished in Thursday morning's inferno. Mourners and the city's residents, their consciences troubled by the suspicious circumstances of the blaze, streamed to 3 Ravenstrasse all day.

"We cannot understand it," read a sign attached to the fence behind the building. After two days of sifting through the rubble, the police could not understand it either. The three young men from eastern Germany, detained for questioning in the vicinity of the blaze as the flames leapt towards the attic, were released yesterday for lack of evidence, along with a fourth arrested on Thursday evening.

The forensic scientists, working in a metal cage in case the structure collapsed, have been able to establish only that the fire broke out on the first floor.

Evidence that the flames spread from different directions would indicate arson, but so far no such clues have emerged.

Unlike in previous attacks on foreigners, no racist material or graffiti were left at the scene. "We are not talking of arson at the moment," said Winfried Tabarelli, the head of the local criminal police.

To those who lost close relatives in the fire, the absence of malice offers little consolation. Jean-Marie Magodilla, a Zairean immigrant, returned home from a visit to another town on Thursday morning only to discover that his wife, four children and three other members of his family had been killed in the blaze.

Others are still looking for their loved ones. Four people are missing, while another five are in critical condition in hospital. At least 80 people were staying at the four-storey building, 35 more than registered.

If arson is ruled out, the focus is likely to shift to the cramped conditions in refugee hostels.

Asylum-seekers are often herded together in houses Germans would not tolerate, their numbers swollen by unregistered friends and relatives trying to eke out an existence away from the watchful German authorities. Ricketty stoves wedged between mattresses are a constant hazard.

Until the experts find a technical fault to explain the fire, Germans will continue to torment themselves with angst about racist thugs in their midst. Yesterday provided another poignant reminder of the ever-present crimes of the past, with President Roman Herzog addressing Parliament ahead of the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

"The witnesses are dying: fewer and fewer victims can personally communicate what they suffered," Mr Herzog said. "So we must, again and again, create a living future out of our memories. The most important thing is to sharpen young people's perception of how to recognise the beginnings of racism and totalitarianism."

None

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## obituaries / gazette

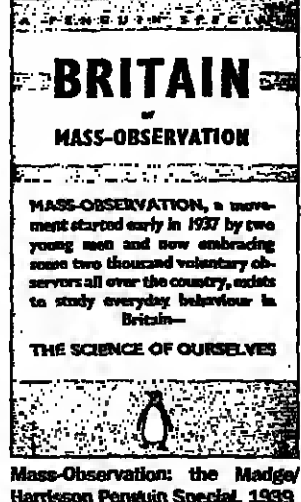
## Charles Madge

Charles Madge was a gently charming man, with an air of diffidence and melancholy. He seemed all too easy to overshadow.

His mentors were I.A. Richards, T.S. Eliot and J.M. Keynes, yet his name is rarely connected with any of these men. His first wife, the poet Kathleen Raine, and his brilliant friend the film-maker Humphrey Jennings have sustained fame eclipsing that once enjoyed by Madge's own verse. The foundation of Mass-Observation as a social survey in 1937 was more his work than anyone else's, and his co-authorship of early publications gave it reputation and credibility, but Tom Harrison took over the organisation, and most of the credit. When Birmingham University made Madge its first Professor of Sociology in 1950 this was a brave appointment. The subject itself was still deeply unfashionable in British academic circles, and Madge, furthermore, had no degree in any discipline. These things too have been forgotten.

Madge was at fault in reluctance to beat his own drum. A biography - which someone must write - would cast light on the highways of 20th-century life, as well as in many interesting corners.

He was born in 1912 in South Africa, where his father was one of the arch-imperialist Milner's "young men" rebuilding the country after the Boer War. But L-Col Madge was killed in the First World War, and Charles was brought to Britain. A scholarship to Winchester promised no success, but Charles early displayed an attraction to science and poetry, he was drawn to I.A. Richards (whose methods in pioneering "practical criticism" of literature ac-



Mass-Observation: the Madge/Harrison Penguin Special, 1939

tually prefigured certain aspects of Mass-Observation). As Scholar of Magdalene College, Cambridge, he became Richards's pupil.

The early Thirties were famously a great period for Cambridge science, with the massive Rutherford and charismatic Bernal. The ambience affected others beside Madge. J.B. Bronowski was one brilliant contemporary who wrote verse and practised science. Cambridge, accordingly, was more open than Oxford to the influence of continental Surrealism. This wasn't merely a movement of melting watches and snook-cocking stunts. Surrealism claimed to be "scientific" in the sense that it extended knowledge of the subconscious. Madge's Cambridge friend Jennings was deeply attracted, as was Madge himself. Meanwhile, the beautiful and strong-willed Raine swept Madge off his feet and down to London before he had completed a degree.

Madge professed Communism, yet the "reactionary" T.S. Eliot, all-powerful over poetic reputations as commander of Faber's list, liked his verse and took him up. One of Eliot's friends was a leader writer for the *Daily Mirror*, and when Madge needed a job Eliot referred him to that paper. As a reporter Madge was fascinated by the discrepancy between what people actually thought and what politicians claimed they did. The Abdication crisis of 1936 crystallised interest in the issue.

Raine and Madge were living in Blackheath, south-east London, near the famous GPO Film Unit where Jennings, and other friends, worked. On 2 January 1937, Madge announced in a letter to the *New Statesman* that a group had been formed to study public opinion. He called for "mass observations" to create "mass science". This attracted the attention of Harrison, a self-taught anthropologist recently returned from the New Hebrides who was setting up a survey of the culture of south Lancashire. Within a month, the two ventures fused as "Mass-Observation".

While Harrison led fieldwork in Bolton, Madge organised from Blackheath a "panel" of volunteers ready to send in material about their daily circumstances and to reply to regular "directive" questionnaires - on their attitudes to class and race, for instance. There was implicit divergence. While Harrison's survey methods generated a kind of "documentary in depth", panel replies, and the later related "War Diaries", created a rich and random mass of material in which hundreds of people, mostly obscure, mostly unknown to each other, made their confidential confessional. Ironically, most among the hordes of researchers latterly at-

tracted to the Tom Harrison Mass Observation Archive at the University of Sussex have probably found the "Madgeian" material more intriguing than the Harrisonian "reports".

The two men collaborated on *Britain by Mass-Observation*, a Penguin Special of 1939, then on *War Begins at Home* (1940). But differences of emphasis became painful. Madge drifted out of the organisation. Under the aegis of Keynes he studied, with statistical rigour, wartime patterns of working-class saving and spending for the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. Then, in 1943, he joined the research staff of PEP (non-government "Political and Economic Planning"). The emphasis on post-war planning continued when he moved on to direct the Pilot Press and edit a series of "Pilot Papers" under the rubric "Target for Tomorrow". In 1947 he was appointed Social Development Officer for the New Town of Stevenage - "my task", as he wrote, "being to act as a sociologist-executive on an equal footing with the other chief officers of the Development Corporation." But the town's growth was disappointingly slow and Madge left in 1950 for the Chair in Birmingham, which he occupied for the next 20 years.

He fell into the role of dignified social scientist, going on missions for the UN and its agencies to "developing" Asia and Africa. His published work, which was rather scanty, included both theoretical study (*Society in the Mind*, 1964) and empirical research (*Art Students Observed*, 1973, and *Inner City Poverty in Paris and London*, 1981).

But his main contribution to the development of social science in Britain had surely been



Confidential confessions: Madge, right, with Tom Harrison, c.1937

Photograph: Howard Cook

the invention of Mass-Observation, at a time when Gallup had barely arrived, market research techniques were unsophisticated and the study of popular culture, later developed at Birmingham in the 1960s by Richard Hoggart and Stuart Hall, was hardly heard of. Madge had been regarded as a leader of the younger generation of poets in the 1930s. Faber published *The Disappearing Castle* (1937) and *The Father Found* (1941). The space of verse became a mere stream in the 1940s, and had petered out altogether by the mid-fifties. When Amel Press in 1994 gathered together the two books with unpublished work, as *Of*

*Love, Time and Places*, the latest poem included was dated 1971. His style changed little over time. Originally athletic and experimental, later rather sedate, it was always marked by distance from the "real world". In its tendency to abstraction it suggests the work of Edwin Muir, another poet published by Eliot. (It might be remarked that both Madge and Muir seem to have influenced the discourse of *Four Quartets*.) Surrealism is a presence, notably in "Flight of the Margarine" (1938). But the language always shows the early influence of W.H. Auden, so inescapable for so many. At his most "concrete", Madge is endear-

ingly awkward in a "Mass-Observation" poem from 1939 - "Drinking in Bolton".

Not from imagination am I drinking  
This landscape (Lancs), this plate of  
"steep and onion"  
But, like the Nag's Head brand, I am drawing  
(towards imagination) gills of  
mild...

However, the body of his verse has strengths which may yet find fresh admirers.

Madge's second marriage, to Inez Pearn, a novelist, ended with her death in 1976. Two children with her had followed two with Raine. His third wife, Evelyn Brown, died in 1984. When I last saw him some years ago, he was talking hap-

pily of a new relationship, ad of new poems... But what became of these? I think he was heavily critical of his own work. Taken too far, diffidence debles talent. Yet Madge certainly made his mark, or mark.

Angus Calda

**Charles Henry Madge**, poet and sociologist: born Johannesburg 11 October 1912; co-founder Mass Observation 1937; Professor of Sociology, Birmingham University 1950-70; married 1938 Kathleen Raine (marriage dissolved; one son, one daughter); 1942 Inez Pearn (died 1976; one son, one daughter); 1979 Evelyn Brown (died 1984); died London 17 January 1986.

## Lord Glendevon



Glendevon: born into the purple

Photograph: Camera Press

To his undoubted private charm - it would not have occurred to so proud and patrician a Tory to whisper a word of complaint to a journalist - Lord John Hope, as he then was, was peremptorily dismissed by Harold Macmillan in the Night of the Long Knives in July 1962. Perhaps he was one of those ministers whom the Leader of the Opposition, Harold Wilson, had in mind, along with Selwyn Lloyd, David Eccles, Charles Hill and David Maxwell Fyfe, Viscount Kilmult, when he memorably chuckled on television: "Mr Macmillan has sacked half his Cabinet - the wrong half."

No Minister of Works or minister responsible for the heritage before or since has had greater personal erudition about great buildings. It is hardly surprising, since his childhood home was the greatest of all the creations of William and Robert Adam, and much of his early manhood was spent in the marvellous grandeur of Victoria's House in New Delhi designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. (Nicholas Ridley told me no one knew more about the work of his own Lutyens grandfather than Glendevon. Indeed, as Minister of Works he was to take a particular interest in the repair, care and maintenance of British embassies and Commonwealth buildings round the globe.)

It was an irony (later con-

firmed to me by Selwyn Lloyd) that what immediately broke Macmillan's nerve was a Tory lost deposit in the West Lothian by-election of June 1962, a drop in the Conservative vote from 59.7 to 11.4 per cent since 1959 - and that in West Lothian, on the banks of the Forth, stands Hopetoun House, the imposing of all the great Adam houses, where Glendevon was brought up.

Indeed, when he was ennobled in 1964, Hope took the title of Baron Glendevon - Glendevon being the farm on the Hopetoun Estate near Winchburgh, West Lothian, where he had roamed as a child (and subsequently made famous by the late Brian Caddow for pioneering work in sheep farming).

Geoffrey Rippon, who succeeded Hope in 1962 as cabinet minister in charge of the Office of Works, says that no sacked minister could have been more charming or as generous to his successor. "He was there to welcome me to the ministry when I went up the steps for the first time at the age of 38. He was exceptionally nice. However hurt he was he did not show it."

In those days the Office of Works (wisely abolished by Wilson) was responsible for buildings in Scotland as well as England - and many of our great institutions, such as the Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh.

Those who are in a position to know recall with clarity all the help they received from central government after Hope became Minister.

John Hope was born into the highest purple of the British establishment. His grandfather was Governor-General of Canada. In the 16th century the Hope family had metamorphosed themselves from successful pawnbrokers in the High Street of Edinburgh to distinguished bankers to the Scottish kings and acquired lands to the west of Edinburgh where they built Midhope Castle and then Hopetoun itself.

His father, the second Marquess of Linlithgow, was chairman of the Royal Commission on Indian Agriculture in 1926-28 and then of the Joint Select Committee on Indian Constitutional Reform. He became Viceroy of India in 1936. Bitterly attacked for allegedly clumsy dealings with Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru and the Congress Party, Linlithgow had and press and is out of favour with historians. John Hope passionately believed his father to be misunderstood and much maligned and in 1971 published a book, *Viceroy At Bay*, which, based on the extensive archives in Hopetoun, is required reading for a serious student of the twilight of the Raj.

His mother, Doreen, Marchioness of Linlithgow, was the

daughter of Sir Frederick Milner Bt, who served as MP for York and then for Bassetlaw and was of the family of the Earl of Cromer, proconsul in Cairo. Proconsular genes could hardly have been more concentrated in Hope, who certainly was of a generation and background devoted to the public service. His life was further enhanced by marriage to Elizabeth, daughter of the writer Somerset

Maugham with whom Hope had a turbulent, but always affectionate and intensely interesting relationship.

He was a younger, and much cleverer twin. His brother, Charlie, the easy-going third Marquess of Linlithgow, with whom John got on surprisingly cheerfully, would say half in jest and wholly in earnest, "Fair shares! I inherited Hopetoun with its problems and what re-

mained of the money - John got an unfairly huge share of the family brains and energy!"

So it was - though to be fair Charlie spent five years in a de-

John Hope was one of a limited number of Conservative MPs in the 1945-50 Parliament who kept the Opposition being an opposition. Lord Boyd-Carpenter, the then MP for Kingston-upon-Thames, says: "He was one of a small band who might after night challenge the Labour government. He was very effective, particularly on economic subjects."

On boundary reorganisation Hope inherited the prosperous Edinburgh seat of Pentlands. Last year, when Douglas Hurd resigned as Foreign Secretary and Malcolm Rifkind succeeded, Glendevon said that he was delighted that an MP for Pentlands had become Foreign Secretary - the position he himself had craved all those years ago.

As Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs from October 1954 to November 1956 and in the Commonwealth Office from 1956 to 1957 he took a special interest in relations with India and Pakistan, believing it important that British ministers should make it clear at every opportunity that the unbroken cord had been broken, but that Britain's cultural and affectionate relationship with the former Indian Empire should go from strength to strength.

After a well-remembered period at the Scottish Office Hope became Minister in charge of the Office of Public Buildings

and Works in Macmillan's Cabinet until he was so suddenly ejected.

Not sparing a moment to sulk, he threw himself into his own interests, becoming Chairman of the Royal Commonwealth Society and then an active member of the Historic Buildings Council for England under the chairmanship of his erstwhile Permanent Secretary Sir Edward Muir. Muir has stated in public and private that Hope was one of the most decisive, effective and knowledgeable ministers that a department could wish to have in charge.

Tam Dalyell

**John Adrian Hope**, politician and businessman: born 7 April 1912; MP (Conservative) for North Midlothian and Peebles 1945-50; for Pentlands 1950-64; Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs 1954-56; Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Commonwealth Relations 1956-57; Joint Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Scotland 1957-59; Minister of Works 1959-62; PC 1959; Chairman, Royal Commonwealth Society 1963-66; created 1964 Baron Glendevon; chairman Ciba-Geigy 1967-71; deputy chairman 1971-78; Chairman, Historic Buildings Council for England 1973-75; married 1948 Elizabeth Maugham (two sons); died 17 January 1986.

## Births, Marriages &amp; Deaths

## BIRTHS

**TAYLOR:** On 17 January 1986, to Rachel (nee Hope) and David, a son, Benjamin Anthony Castell, a brother for Felix. With thanks to all at Queen Charlotte's Hospital.

## DEATHS

**GILES:** Phyllis Margaret, formerly of Park Parade, Cambridge, passed peacefully to rest in a Norfolk nursing home on Monday 15 January 1986. Beloved aunt of Foreman and Giles. Funeral service in the Church of St Edward King and Martyr, Cambridge, on Wednesday 24 January at 3pm to be followed by cremation. Flowers to Westman Funeral Service, 25 Abbey Walk, Cambridge.

**MADGE:** Charles, poet and social scientist. Died at home in East Finchley on 17 January 1986, aged 53. Much-loved father of Anna, James, Vicki and William. Funeral at St Marylebone Crematorium, London N2, on Monday 29 January at 12pm. Enquiries to Abbott & English Funeral Directors, telephone 0181 364 0000.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS, please telephone 0171-293 2811 or fax to 0171-293 2816. Charges are £2.50 a line (VAT extra).

## ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal, Patron, served Rugby Union, today attends the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Welsh March at Llanwrthwl, Dyfed, Wales.

## Changing of the Guard

1700: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment presents the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, London. 1700: The Grenadier Guard presents the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, London. 1700: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment presents the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, London.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr M. J. Loneragan and Miss L. D. M. Owen**  
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs Edmund Loneragan of South Derrig, Massachusetts, and Louisa, daughter of the late Mrs Rutledge Owen and of Mr John Owen, and to Mrs Rosemary Owen, of Mayfield, East Sussex.

**Mr J. C. Roughton and Miss A. G. Matthews**  
The engagement is announced between Adele, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Sel Matthews, of Auckland, New Zealand, and Julian, younger son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Roughton, of Chiswick, London.

## Birthdays

**TODAY:** Dr Edwin (Burr) Aldrin, astronaut; 66; Mr Tom Baker, actor, 60; Mr George Burns, comedian and actor, 100; Sir John Chadwick, High Court judge, 55; The Very Rev David Edwards, Provost Emeritus of Southwark Cathedral, 67; Lord Ewing of Kirkford, former MP, 65; Sir Henry Fisher, former President, Wollaton College, Oxford, 78; Miss Lisa Goddard, actress, 46; Lord Hanson, industrialist, 74; Major Dick Horn, racehorse trainer, 75; Commandant Vonka McBride, former Director, WRNS, 75; Mr Christopher Martin-Jenkins, radio sports commentator, 51; Miss Patricia Neal, actress, 70; Mr Nathan Shcharansky, Soviet dissident, 48; Mr Eric Stewart, rock guitarist, 51; Mr Curtis Strange, golfer, 41; Professor Nalin Chandra Wickramasinghe, astronomer, 57; Mr Nigel Williams, novelist, 48; Mr John Withrow, Editor, the *Sunday Times*, 44.

**TOMORROW:** Dr Alan Borg, Director, Victoria and Albert Museum,

54; Dr John Burnett, former Principal, Edinburgh University, 74; Dr Robert Butler, historian, 79; Dr David Carey, joint Registrar, Faculty Office, Archbishop of Canterbury, 79; Lord Cagney, company chairman, 86; The Rev John Cowgry, former Minister, St Edmund's House, Cambridge, 81; Mr John Denison, former general manager, Royal Festival Hall, 83; Mr Pascale Domingo, opera singer, 53; Mr George Forster, MP, 54; Dr John Hayes, former Director, National Portrait Gallery, 67; Mr Kenneth Maginnis MP, 58; Sir George Humphrey Middleton, former diplomat, 66; Mr Jack Nicklaus, golfer, 56; Sir Nicholas Phillips, High Court judge, 58; Miss Seena Reid, Director, Scottish Arts Council, 46; Mr Paul Scofield, actor, 74; Mr Martin Shaw, actor, 51; Mr Aubrey Singer, former Deputy Director-General, BBC, 69; Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Trowbridge, 76; Mr Laurence Whistler, glass-engraver and writer, 84; Mr Norman Willis, former General Secretary of the TUC, 63.

## Anniversaries

**TODAY:** Births: André-Marie Ampère, physicist, 1775; Joe Frickert, Victoria (Gessner) Adamson, companion of wild animals and author, 1910; Federico Fellini, film director, 1920. Deaths: John Howard, prison reformer, 1790; Sir John Soane, architect, 1837; Jean-François Millet, painter, 1875; John Ruskin, social reformer, critic and writer, 1903; Audrey Hepburn (Audrey van Heemstra Hepburn-Ruston), actress, 1933; Sir Matt Busby, football manager, 1934. On this day: The first fleet sent to Botany Bay arrived in New South Wales, 1788; Hong Kong was ceded to Britain by China, 1841; John Fitzgerald Kennedy was inaugurated as the 35th US president, 1961. Today is the Feast Day of St Euthymius the Great, St Fabian, pope, St Fechin and St Sebastian.

**TOMORROW:** Births: Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson, Confederate general, 1824; Dr Duncan James Corrow Grant, painter, 1853; Christian Dior, couturier, 1905; Benji Hill (Alfred Hawthorn Hill), comedian, 1924. Deaths: Lenin (Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov), Russian leader, 1924; Lytton Giles Strachey, biographer and critic, 1932; George Orwell (Eric Arthur Blair), novelist, 1950; Cecil Blount de Mille, film director, 1959. On this day: The *Daily News*, the newspaper edited by Charles Dickens, was first issued, 1846; taxi-cabs were first officially recognised in Britain, 1907; *Tommy* row is the Feast Day of St Agnes, St Alban or Bartholomew Roe, St Epiphanius of Pavia, St Frodo Baggins of Tarragona, St Meinrad and St Patroclus of Troyes.

## Lectures

**TODAY:** National Gallery: Tom Parvons. "Looking Backwards (II): Raphael, Saint Catherine of Alexandria", 12pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Andrew Bolton. "Fashion in China 1910-70", 2.30pm.

**TOMORROW:** Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury. "Paintings from the Chatsworth Bequest", 2.30pm. National Portrait Gallery: Alfred Bradley and Susan Morris. "John Dryden", 3pm.

## Dinners

**Defence and Security Forum**  
The Earl of Lauderdale was the host at the Annual Dinner of the Defence and Security Forum held yesterday evening in the Peart Dining Room, House of Lords, London SW1. Lady Olga Maitland MP presided. General Sir Charles Gairdner, Chief of the MOD Staff, was the guest speaker. Mr Anthony Mudd also spoke.

## Just a nice, straight, honest path please

## faith &amp; reason

On the last page of *Little Women*, Louisa M. Alcott works on her readers, coaxing them towards buying the sequel. (Nowadays it would be given a more marketable title, like *Little Women II* or *Big Women*.) Laurie turns to Jo and asks: "Don't you wish you could take a look forward and see where we shall all be then?"

"I think not," answers Jo, "for I might see something sad."

But I want to, and so, I reckon, do most people.

To want to see into the future is thought of as cranky or, if not that, then greedy: wanting more than we have a right to. You get shovelled into the same bracket as all the sad people who consult Russell Grant and Mystic Meg or it's assumed that you want to fiddle the National Lottery or your insurance.

But really, it's only that I get so tired of living in a world of guesswork. If we could just live in the present, as we are constantly enjoined to do, that would be fine. There is only one of them. But there are always three, four or five futures we have to cope with. Every action has to be thought out and duplicated in case X happens, or Y happens, and to guard against the eventuality of Z happening.

This making of provision (an ironically inappropriate word, given that that's precisely what we don't have) gums up all of life. It means I have to (or ought to) leave early when I go out in the evening in case I get held up in the traffic. It means the local health authority has to guess how many ambulances it needs to cover my area in case I smash into another car at the same time as somebody falling downstairs. (At the moment everybody round here

Who wants to see into the future? Paul Handley does. The Editor of the *Church Times* explains the difference between 'waiting in the Lord' and 'running towards the goal'.

drives carefully, since there is only one ambulance.) It means that somebody falls downstairs, because the health authority cancelled their home-help in order to spend the money on a second ambulance, which it might never need.

Generally my desires are modest. I want to know when the car will need to be replaced.

I'm not afraid of the big one, though. Unlike Jo, I don't worry about the sadness, since to know when one will die is to be able to prepare for it. My children used to play up in church because they weren't able to judge how near the end of the service they were. Knowing how long you have to go on suffering something helps you to endure it.

There are two spiritual ways of coping with uncertainty about the future. One is referred to as "waiting in the Lord". (Not to be confused with "waiting on the Lord", which, translated, means simply "I'm stumped".) The other, more common in Evangelical circles, is talked of as running towards the goal. The new Bish-

op of Chelmsford, announced this week, is a runner, but a marathon-runner rather than a sprinter; in other words, an Evangelical "enriched by other traditions". The Lord-waiters cope by letting events wash over them: for them, faith has been confused with hope. By contrast, the goal-runners set a target, and believe themselves to be heading towards it, disregarding life's awkwardnesses: for them, faith has been confused with determination.

For the rest of us, when faced with all the eventualities we ought to cover, we rely on habit, routine and the television schedules. We know that on Thursday evening next week we will have eaten sweet-and-pepper-topped pizza, and that Matthew will be telling us about his central heating. We know that the car will start tomorrow morning. We know that the sun will rise. In other words, we pretend. And we gamble: the lure of the National Lottery is that it is so easily predicted compared to the number and complexity of the risks we take each day. We walk on a tissue-strewn carpet of supposition and getting across it depends on not looking down.

It is a wearisome business, and I'd like it to stop. Just a nice, straight, honest path for me, please: seeing the next joy coming towards me, seeing the next sorrow. It doesn't seem that much to ask. I wouldn't necessarily want complete presence about everything; and I'm even willing to agree not to change too much as a result of my new knowledge, if people think that's cheating.

Until this is granted, I'll have to practise. I'll carry a watch to church, believe the weather forecast and skip to the last pages of novels. Not one of Jo's boys, I'm afraid.

John 1:1-5:28



The Independent  
**Weekend**

# Portrait of the artiste as an artist

Giles Smith on  
David Byrne  
and the  
School of Rock  
page 7

## INSIDE STORIES

**3** Pedro Almodóvar has jumped to global notoriety with a series of sexy, brash comedy dramas that have shown the same gleeful enmity to good taste as, say, the plays of Joe Orton

**6** A man takes a single spoonful of a substance and puts it in his mouth. Instantly he is transported to another world, a place full of surreal visions and primary colours. His eyes bulge; his senses cannot cope. What is this terrifying compound?

**13** Looking at 140 riverbank sites, a team of zoologists from Oxford University found that the number occupied by voles had fallen from 73 per cent in 1990 to 24 per cent in 1995. Given this staggering rate of decline, the research team now estimate that water voles in the Thames could be extinct by 2015

Photograph: Gavin Smith / Camera Press

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## picture story



Clockwise from top: 'Large Reclining Figure' 1938, recast in 1983; 'Sheep Piece' 1971-72, 'The Arch' 1963-65; 'Reclining Mother and Child' 1975-76

Words by Jonathan Glancey  
Pictures by Brian Harris



# BRONZE AND BRASS

The photographs on this page show some of the most beautiful works of Henry Moore, our most famous sculptor, in the garden and fields overlooking his home in Perry Green, Hertfordshire. They are looked after today by the Henry Moore Foundation (set up by artist, wife and daughter in 1977). Last year, the Foundation turned over

£3.2m in death, as in life, Henry Moore is big business.

This week, for the second time in two years, his daughter, Mary Danowski, has gone to court claiming some £200m worth of her late father's work. She failed in 1993, and was faced with six-figure legal costs. Danowski says that the "artist's copies" of her father's works produced from 1977 to his death in 1986 are rightly hers. But, the Henry Moore Foundation insists the artist was an employee of HMF Enterprises (the trading arm of the Foundation) in those years. In return for a salary of £45,000, Moore turned over all new artworks to the Foundation. This spared him potential tax liabilities. The arrangement seemed fixed until Danowski began her legal battle. The Court of Appeal has yet to make a judgment.

If only the case of Mary Danowski versus the Henry Moore Foundation was a simple storm in an artist's teacup. In fact, the legal row between the sculptor's daughter and the Henry Moore Foundation has far-reaching implications for the art world. These are complex but lucrative questions of who owns what and how when an artist dies.

The case can only encourage those who love art, but are wary of the art world, to believe that those concerned with the nation's artistic legacy can be just as interested in brass (and in getting one over each other) as in bronzes.

In all this squabbling, the sculptures at Perry Green have been clouded in vituperation. Yet, come here under stormy January clouds: between ancient hedgerows of hawthorn, dogwood, blackthorn and dogrose and grazing sheep, your eye will meet superb sculpture, a world removed from courtrooms.

While the art world squabbles, and lawyers charge their fees, the rest of us should not let our judgement of Henry Moore and his sublime sculpture be clouded.

The Henry Moore Foundation, Dane Tree House, Perry Green, Much Hadham, Herts (01279 843333). By appointment only, booking now. Tues, Weds, Thurs 2.30pm. 1 April to 30 Sept, £1.

## THIS WEEKEND WHY NOT...

EDITED BY DAVID BENEDICT

### READ The Whitbread Nominees



Zip through the final line-up for the Whitbread Book of the Year, the nation's most *haut-tan* prize after the Booker, and see if you can guess the winner. You'll have read *The Moor's Last Sign* by now, of course (the Nobel prizewinner), and you may have spent Christmas grappling with Lord Jenkins's sparkling life of the bald eagle of Victorian liberalism, Gladstone (Biography prize). Of Michael Morpurgo, (Children's Book prize) I cannot speak, but the children's category never wins anyway. The big prize is announced on Tuesday. "If the Gladstone book doesn't get it, I shall, Dickensianly, eat my head, sir," says John Walsh, our literary editor.

### DISCOVER Charles Ives



TS Eliot worked in a bank, Philip Larkin was a librarian and Charles Ives was an insurance clerk. He was also the most extraordinarily diverse composer America ever produced. He died in 1954 and poked a lot in to 80 years. His work ranges from the folksy to the experimental to the visionary, and this weekend is the perfect time to get to know him with the Barbican festival of his work. Activities begin at 12.30pm with a lunchtime concert and at 2pm there's a documentary on the man himself. There are five further concerts climaxing with Andrew Davies conducting the BBC Symphony Orchestra on Sunday night in a programme including the lush, romantic Second Symphony and the overwhelming power of his Fourth. The weekend's jewel, however, is the recital by Thomas Hampson (above) and Dawn Upshaw, America's leading interpreters of song, on Sunday afternoon. The Barbican, London EC2 0171-638 8891

### GO TO A market



A gentle poke around the rocks and crannies of a local market is what Saturdays and Sundays were invented for. Whether it's the flea market in Bristol, a surprisingly good place to pick up second-hand furniture at prices Londoners would kill for, or ferreting through the piles of books amongst the arts and crafts of Greenwich's Sunday market, there are few better ways of whiling away the hours without blowing your life savings. Columbia Road market in London's East End is horticultural heaven. The Sunday-only stalls sell a profusion of flowers and plants, while the shops offer everything from bugs and browls to waterfalls and garden furniture. Get there early (it's over by 2pm), stock up for your garden/window/book and then head round the corner to Brick Lane for bric-a-brac followed by fresh bagels stuffed with smoked salmon and cream cheese.

### CATCH The last two days of Art 96



The success story of the week has been Art 96 and there are still two days in which to discover what all the hot galleries are showing and selling. If you're daunted by the prospect of strolling around town, worry not: everything is under one roof. In the first day and a half, over 12,000 people flooded through the doors to gaze, admire, argue about and buy. Charles Saatchi swooned in and snatched up everything by young black artist Chris Giff, one of the winners of the new Wingate Award, sponsored by this newspaper. Geoff Wilder of the Portal Gallery announced, "There is a feeling of optimism for the first time in five years. People are buying paintings again." Indeed. Someone bought a Beryl Cook for £12,000 but you don't need to be in that league to pick up something you fancy.

11-6 Sat, 11-5 Sun, at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1 0171 359 3535 £7/4.50 approx

### SPORT The new rugby merchandise



Rugby is waking up. Clubs, managers and marketing men have woken up to the power of merchandising and there has now a myriad of ways to increase your sports income and have something tangible to remember. Let's face it, no team in the Manchester Old have had a higher sophisticated merchandising operation for years. Why not start your own rugby team? You can sweat it in, cycle shorts or accessories? With the rugby season still under way, Hadenline PC has launched the comprehensive Hadenline PC's vast catalogue of items emblazoned with the Quins logo with every conceivable product from baseball caps to baby booties (catching on from children in a baby's first full season). Every team has its glory, but even the women's club has something to offer.

Hadenline PC items available by mail, 0181-892 0622



30 Jan 1996

# Ooh, Pedro, you are awful

Pedro Almodóvar makes sexy, naughty arthouse films that make people laugh. Which is just one reason why he'll never cut it in Hollywood.

By Kevin Jackson. Photograph by Glynn Griffiths

I know that Pedro Almodóvar was the most successful star director of Spain's new cinema, and probably the most internationally celebrated man of La Mancha since Cervantes's hero took up his lance against the wind. You might guess that he was in some of her business. Dressed, not in the expected many dazzling colours (his films are full of many dresses), but a rumpled grey pullover, he thoughtfully at his scrub of black hair, Almodóvar looks more like an earnest actor in theatre, or maybe a comedian with drooping features but highly mobile features and a tormented style of delivery.

Indeed, though he apologises needlessly for his English, his delivery can be as rapid-fire as an Elton monologue and, despite the occasional conference with his translator and a few gaffes, is remarkably fluent. Should Hollywood ever call as it has already eagerly called his handsome discovery Antonio Banderas, Almodóvar should have no problems with the lingo. Hollywood, on the other hand, may well have its problems with Almodóvar in these nervous late Nineties.

Ever since his zero-budget debut film in 1980, *Pepi, Luci, Bom y otras chicas del montón*, Almodóvar – the posters and credits tend not to bother with his Christian name – has jumped from local success to global notoriety with a series of fizzy, sexy, brash comedy-dramas and dramatic comedies that have shown the same kind of gleeful enmity to quiet good taste as, say, the plays of Joe Orton, though Almodóvar's work usually has a kinder heart than Orton's dark farces. (While some of Almodóvar's comedy hints that its creator might be cannily aggressive, the reality is quite different: for all his nervous energy in conversation, he's also polite and affable, even chummy.)

*Pepi, Luci, Bom*, for example, featured an erection competition; *Kika*, his last film, includes a rape scene that goes on so long that its victim becomes bored and starts to worry about the shopping. No wonder, as Almodóvar notes, that many of the "intellectual" American audiences that picked him up so eagerly around 1984 have turned against him, suspicious of his undogmatic sexual politics (*Te Me Up Te Me Down*, in which the bound victim ends up romantically involved with her captor, was found particularly dodgy) and disconcerted at the spectacle of an openly gay director who abstained from direct homosexual activism. "Homosexuals protesting against *Basic Instinct*," he observes in a new book of interviews, *Almodóvar on Almodóvar*, "seems as absurd as hoteliers campaigning against *Psycho* because the murder takes place in a motel." But viewers willing to relax their scruples and play by the rules of Almodóvar's world have discovered that rare thing: an artist at once wacky and heartfelt, a harsh realist in love with all the cinema's glorious trickery: a maker of "art" cinema, if you like, that is actually a lot of fun to watch. (It's no surprise to learn that one of Almodóvar's favourite movies is the Audrey Hepburn musical *Funny Face*, a romantic comedy about the fashion trade and existentialism; Almodóvar says that it's "a film I consider my encyclopaedia".) Shortly before she resigned her throne at the *New Yorker*, the critic Pauline Kael bestowed her definitive blessing on him: "The most original pop writer-director of the Eighties, he's Godard with a human face – a happy face."

But the film Almodóvar is in town to promote, *The Flower of My Secret*, while no less human than its 10 precursors, is notably less happy: its face is conspicuously tear-stained. True, Almodóvar's trademark black wit hasn't deserted him completely. *Flower* opens with a characteristic bit of double-take poor taste, in which two pitifully embarrassed young doctors try to persuade a bereaved mother to donate her 16-year-old son's organs to medicine – a scene that proves to be simply a hospital's training seminar, with an actress playing the part of the distraught mother for the benefit of students. As Almodóvar notes, this sequence is the first of the film's many acts of imitation and imposture.

"In fact, at the beginning of the film, we are present at an imitation of a situation that is a very serious situation, but at the same time it's real, because you know that this medical seminar is a real thing – I read about it in the newspapers. The most crazy things in my movies I read in the newspapers, they are real... [laughs] I develop them in a logical way, but they are always taken from reality."

But in other respects, *Flower of My Secret* is a marked departure from form, as Almodóvar readily concedes. "It's much more sober, yes. It's in a different genre from the others and I tried to make it like that. I don't know if it marks a new direction for me, but I do know that my movies from now on will be changing. I'm afraid of repeating myself, so I think that I'm going to do four or five movies that will be very different, different from each other and from the others, from the past."

It would take many paragraphs to provide an adequate synopsis of the many sub-plots that entwine *The Flower of My Secret*, but its main plot is simple enough. It's about a painful passage in the life of Leo (played with wonderful delicacy by Marisa Paredes), a 40-ish woman who enjoys great commercial success with the romantic novelettes she writes, but is wretched in her own love-life. For all its light comic touches, the film is really a tale of hopeless love. It aches with loss and, as its director says, it is by far the most personal of all his films:

"All my movies are autobiographical, but not in a way so direct as this. I felt very close to the main character because she is a person who uses words a lot. Above all, the way I identify with her most is to do with her roots, her family. This is something that's very moving for me – in some ways it's like a portrait of my family. And the movie talks about someone who is abandoned by a lover, and this is very close to me – loneliness is one of the main themes of the movie."

The autobiographical vein in *Flower* runs deep. We learn that its heroine learned about literature as a child from reading and writing letters for illiterate neighbours, just as the young Almodóvar did; we find that she comes from the same region of La Mancha in which he spent his first eight years and so on. You can see why autobiography is so tempting for Almodóvar: even in bare outline, his life story

offers the material for any number of movies – it's reminiscent of the classic plot of the 19th-century novel in which the impoverished but abundantly talented boy from the sticks comes to town and grows into the hero he always knew he could be.

In Almodóvar's case, admittedly, the success took a while to realise: he spent a decade or more working for the telephone company in Madrid, devoting his evenings and weekends to carving out a colourful, if ragged, artistic career in a variety of media: comic strips, pop music, articles (such as his genially lurid confessions of a fictitious porn star) and Super-8 films. There has always been a lot more than transposed, fragmented or caricatured autobiography in his films.

Take, for example, the character of Angel in his latest – a character uncomfortably close to home for me, I remark, because this overweight, lovelorn loser works for the arts pages of *El País*, the Spanish sister paper of the *Independent*. Angel, *c'est moi*. ("You wish," sneers the translator. "No, no," says the kinder director, "you would make a good Angel...") Angel, Almodóvar reveals, is indeed based on a real-life *El País* journalist "older, and much more handsome than in the film, but I couldn't find an actor who looked like that", but his presence in the film is also to do with a kind of commentary Almodóvar wanted to make, not only on Mills & Boon-style fiction, but on the kinds of literary intellectuals who are fascinated by such bodice-busting stuff.

"In Spain, many serious authors, like Vargas Llosa [the Peruvian novelist and politician] and Guillermo Cabrera Infante [the exiled Cuban writer] are very interested in these kinds of romantic novelist. They are fascinated by this kind of storyteller, whose profession is just to tell stories, invent stories every day, like in the last century, like in, I don't know, Dumas. The highest one in Spain is this bitter old lady who releases every month three ovelles, she makes millions, and both Vargas Llosa and Infante wrote deep studies of her."

The issue of what is good and bad in popular culture is urgent to Almodóvar, partly because of his distrust for slumming intellectuals (he's insistent that when his heroine turns to writing more serious works, it's not because she wants to become an intellectual but because she wants to find more honest or adequate ways of expressing her emotional pain), partly because of the importance popular culture – or what he calls "sub-product" – has in his life and films: "I love sub-product – this kind of thing you can buy at a kiosk. But there are different levels of the quality of culture. Culture is just culture, bad if the artist is bad, good if the artist is good, and it doesn't matter what the material is."

At this point in the interview, Almodóvar turns towards the photographer, Glynn Griffiths, and strikes some comic poses. I observe that the last time Glynn and I had worked together was to meet the veteran Italian director Antonioni, who has been silenced by a stroke and had to be "interviewed" by way of his wife. The contrast is striking: Antonioni so silent, Almodóvar so expansive...

The observation sparks two lengthy digressions from the director, one about muteness ("I once wrote a short story about how I became mute, and everyone on the set did everything they wanted, and the results were much better, so I went into a crisis thinking that I should really stay silent"), the other about a superstition or theory that he has about the uncannily predictive capacity of the cinema.

"It doesn't mean that if you do a film about murderers you're going to become a serial killer, but small details that you didn't experience before, you experience after. I bought a pair of boots that were too tight after finishing *The Flower of My Secret* [in which the heroine suffers from her cramped footwear]. I destroyed telephones after making *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* – it's supposed to be before because you wrote it, but no no, I destroyed telephones after... why are we talking about this?"

Antonioni. "Ah yes. In the case of Antonioni, someone who always used to make all his films about incommunication... it's a little scary to me, that he was condemned to something, it's like a radical expression of his life, to be silent at the end..."

Since we are approaching the end of our interview, I ask Almodóvar about the rumour that he is planning to make his next film in London, with British actors; an adaptation of *Live Flesh*, a thriller by Ruth Rendell. "Yeah, but I moved the story to Spain and I changed the story a lot. I was afraid to be misunderstood. That this is my opinion of British people, because in the story awful things happen and the characters do many awful things, they are hypocrites... I didn't want people to think this is about British society, no no, I'm telling a story, so I preferred to move it all to Spain. The novel is about a policeman who is shot and becomes paraplegic and condemned to a wheelchair... but I changed a lot of this, so that in two or three years this man becomes a big star of [wheelchair] basketball. He's much more successful when he's an invalid, he gets more in life than when he was a simple policeman with two beautiful alive legs, and a wonderful cock, too." This new film will have a Spanish title meaning "flesh for cannon" – a phrase not quite comparable with our own "cannon fodder", denoting, he explains, something more like "doomed from birth". "The word 'flesh', *carne*, is also important because – hitting the word with relish – "there is a lot of sex in the movie..." A note that should reassure long-term Almodóvar fans who might be worried that the mellowness shown in *The Flower of My Secret* heralds an irreversible movement into sobriety and quiet understatement.

Finally, then, are there other elements in his films that anglophone audiences are likely to miss?

"Well, there are always things with languages that are impossible to translate, like the way the mother talks in *Flower*, in a La Mancha dialect which is incredibly funny in Spain. People scream with laughter. But no, I think that the spirit is understood, you know – we understand Japanese movies, we understand Chinese movies. But you know, for a director, comprehension is not enough, ever. You always wanted to say more."

*The Flower of My Secret* opens on 26 Jan. Almodóvar on *Flower* (Faber, £15.95)

IZE  
BRASS



# What goes around comes around

There's a real art to selecting the right frame for a picture (and an entire exhibition dedicated to it). By John Windsor

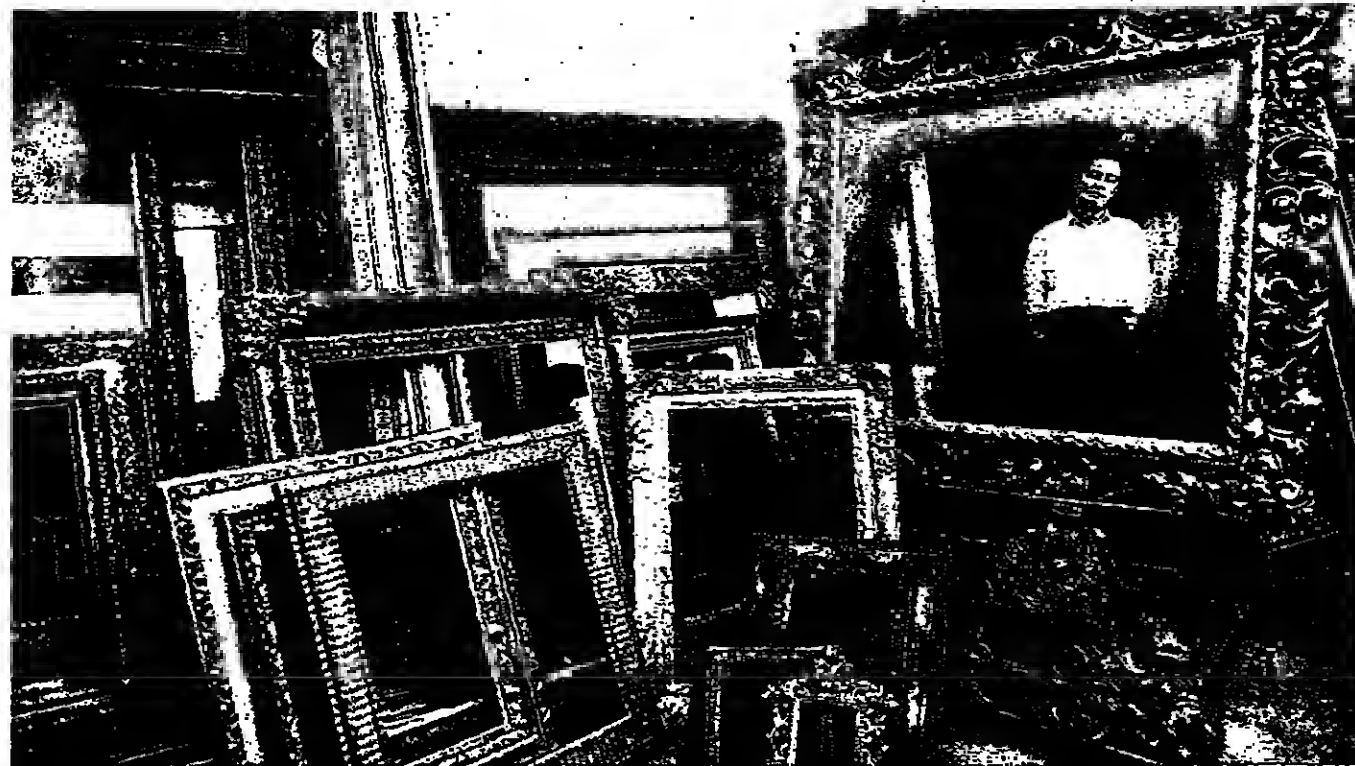
This is the year of the picture frame. This autumn, the National Portrait Gallery will attempt to make respectable what has hitherto been seen as an eccentricity of rich collectors – hanging empty frames on the wall. Most frames in its exhibition, *The Art of the Picture Frame*, will be filled up with canvas, paint, and similar stuff, demonstrating the power of different frames to alter the appearance of identical paintings. But a few will frame patches of blank wall, as if to prove the sanity of empty-frame fanatics and specialists such as Bonhams' Virginia Brix, who told me: "Sometimes you find a frame so beautiful you cannot imagine putting a picture in it".

Why have we lacked frame-awareness until now? Partly because virtually all reproductions of paintings, whether in art books, exhibition and sale catalogues or on postcards and posters sold by museums, show them without frame. We think frames do not matter.

In most cases, we are probably right. Few pictures have survived in their original frames. Napoleon ordered an orgy of frame-chucking when he had the Louvre's collection re-framed in classical style to match the architecture. Owners of stately piles in Britain and Europe followed suit. Such vandalism was called "démolition".

The practice does raise interesting aesthetic issues. Should the frame be allowed to reduce the picture to the interior decoration? No, we all chorus. Then it is simply a picture-holder to stop the canvas from fraying, or an embellishment, complementing the picture? The answer is not difficult to find. Lips may stop the mouth from fraying, but there is such a thing as lipstick.

Those gilded and richly ornamented Louis XIII-XV frames



Virginia Brix of Bonhams: "Sometimes you find a frame so beautiful you cannot imagine putting picture in it"

Photograph: Jane Baker

junked by Napoleon were snapped up for a few francs by struggling Impressionists, giving rise to the most persistent solecism in framing – that that is how Impressionists should look. Most Impressionists would have liked to use plain off-white frames, but could not afford them.

When Van Gogh died, few of his paintings were framed, leaving endless scope for insensitive mismatches. Van Gogh experimented with gold and white frames, but painted the broad, flat frame of his *Still Life With Fruit* (1887) yellow with greenish hatching, echoing the colour and texture of the fruit.

It was the sheer exasperation of trying to frame Van Gogh's that led the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam to launch last

year's exhibition of framed pictures *In Perfect Harmony*. It revealed 1850-1920 as a period when artists devoted themselves to frame design with a fervour not seen since the years before the mid-16th century, when painters and master-carvers worked together.

Seurat adorned his frames with pointillist dots, believing frames to be an extension of the painting. The pre-Raphaelites re-discovered medieval tabernacle frames. Picasso and Whistler were propagandists for creative framing. Picasso parodied stuffy, traditional framing by gluing a paper reproduction of a fussy gilded frame around his *Pipe and Sheet Music* (1914). Since then, British artist Howard Hodgkin has exploded the role of

the frame by painting over canvas and frame simultaneously.

Today, thanks to their playfulness, it's have-a-go time for artists and collectors alike. In matching frames with pictures, there is none so daring as Britain's leading frame dealer and maker – Paul Mitchell, of New Bond Street. You might think that because he re-frames purchases by the biggest American and British museums – including Holbein's *Lady With A Pet Squirrel and Starling*, bought for £10m by the National Gallery in 1993 – he is a stickler for correctness, matching paintings to frames of the precise period. However he sometimes ignores date, preferring to match by colour, ornament and scale, so that Matisse's *White Plumes*,

painted in 1919, now glares from a brassy but stylish 17th-century reverse profile cassetta frame. It looks absolutely right. Dutch Masters, on the other hand, get put back in their original ebony.

A 10-minute tour of Mr Mitchell's showroom will ensure you never again look at a picture without noticing the frame. He is publishing as a separate volume his 120,000 words on the history of picture framing that are about to appear in the Macmillan Dictionary of Art. It is the first major work on frames.

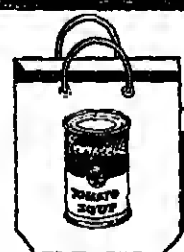
Inspired? Then off to auction, where you can buy frames for a half or a third of shop prices and where some period frames are particularly cheap. At Bonhams Chelsea, whose monthly sales shift 10,000 frames a year in the

£100-£2,000 range, £100 will still buy a 17th-century carved frame. They are simply very plentiful. A really good one might cost £200-£300. Nineteenth-century composition frames are generally cheaper. Expect to pay between £100 and £600.

If you want a modern frame made, ignore big high street framers and smart instant framing boutiques – unless you know what you want. Instead, establish a rapport with a jobbing framer, preferably one with definite tastes. Nigel Sutcliffe in Stoke Newington, north London, hates gold, preferring to stain raw ash-oak and ramin (an Indonesian wood). If he thinks your choice of frame is out of proportion, colour-clashing, or otherwise awful, he will tell you.

If you are uncertain about matching picture with frame, buy a video from Moyra Byford, who runs courses in picture framing and art restoration. I watched her video *Presenting Your Paintings*, which begins by showing how to choose the right colour of mat (cardboard aperture) for watercolours. The mat colour brings out the same colour in the painting: I was amazed to see how a pale peach-coloured mat brought out the sunshine in a painting of a stone arch. Different-coloured mats made a copse of trees in a painting recede or push to the foreground like Burnham Wood.

**The Art of the Picture Frame** is at the National Portrait Gallery from 3 Nov-9 Feb 1997. Bonhams Chelsea next sale, Thursday 11 Jan (0171-393 3988). Nigel Sutcliffe, 0171-254 0066. Moyra Byford: Ely Cottage, Denham, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP29 5EQ (01284-810387); free catalogue.



## bazaar

### Bestsellers: Baxters soups

Baxters has been making soup, jams and canning beetroot since 1868, and is, as we know from seeing Ena Baxter on the TV ads, still family run. Amazingly, Baxters Visitor Centre on Speyside is one of Scotland's top tourist attractions, with 200,000 visitors a year

- |                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| 1 Royal Game           | 59p |
| 2 Cook A Leekie        | 59p |
| 3 Chicken Broth        | 59p |
| 4 Cream of Tomato      | 59p |
| 5 Minestrone           | 59p |
| 6 Scotch Broth         | 59p |
| 7 Carrot & Butter Bean | 62p |
| 8 Country Garden       | 62p |
| 9 French Onion         | 59p |
| 10 Lentil & Vegetable  | 62p |

## Good thing

Skiers' Precision contact lenses, £12-£20 a month

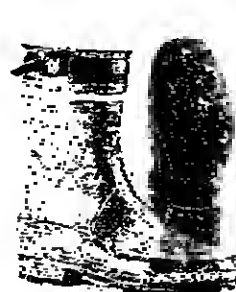
For someone who once went skiing for two days without sunglasses and had pink eyes for the next two weeks, these disposable prescription contact lenses, which filter out 90 per cent of the UV rays from snow glare seem ideal. They can be used with or without sunglasses and come with a credit-card sized UV Sensor Card, which has a sensitive strip which changes colour as the UV builds up; useful for monitoring danger to eyes and skin. The card can be used again. From most good opticians. For information on your nearest stockist, call Pilkington Barnes Hind on 01489 785 366



## Mad thing

Bogtrotters, from £21.89

Finns have worn these for trotting over the tundra since 1989, and now they are available for plodding over a more British style bog. They come with "self-cleaning rubber studs" and have a "defined heel counter for safe descent in wet or muddy conditions". Good value at almost half the price of standard green wellies, although admittedly you only get half the boot. They are available from the BCB Outdoor Travel Products catalogue (01222 464463), who supply gadgets for the couch explorer such as a jungle survival pack and a Mayday signalling mirror



## Last-minute sales bargains

Some people believe that if you don't visit the sales in the first day or two then it's not worth going. This is not the case. Invertebrate bargain hunters wait till the bitter end and buy only when the price-slashing begins in earnest. Many sales are ending over the next week or so and it's those vital last days that will see sellers getting busy with their Magic Markers. We list examples of late bargains.

**Harrods, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (0171-730 1234)** This sale of sales is still going strong. It finishes next Saturday (27 January) but it is well worth making a bee-line to your favourite departments on Wednesday, for this is when final price-slashing takes place. Current reductions range from 25-40 per cent and further reductions will vary from department to department. For example, in the International Designer Room all of Ralph Laureo's autumn designer collection will

be priced at either £199 or £99 (a black check jacket is down from £985 to £199).

**The Conran Shop, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-589 7401)** The sale ends tomorrow but if you're after a Fifties-style "Byrrh" occasional table this is the place to come. They have been reduced from £265, to £130, and now to £100.

**Debenhams, 334-348 Oxford Street, London W1 (information on 0171-408-3333)** A blue cross event starts tomorrow which means a further 20 per cent will be deducted from sale items which have a blue cross sticker attached to them.

**Habitat, branches nationwide (01645 334433)** End of sale promotion from 25 to 28 January. There's an extra 10 per cent off most sale marked prices, for example a Garrick sofa down from £949 to £759, and then to £685.

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## AUCTIONS

Which get painted  
more often? Dogs or  
cats? A trip to  
Bonhams on  
Wednesday night  
might give  
you a clue

Unlike blockbusting New York, the London sale-rooms offer mostly minor auctions in January. But this week should lure some Americans. There are sales of dog and cat pictures: the archive of Samuel Cody (the American who was the first to make a powered flight in the UK) and Oriental ceramics and artworks, a favourite of Americans and Europeans alike.

As usual, dogs outnumber cats at Bonhams, Wednesday (2pm). If cats learned to hunt foxes in packs they might get painted more often. American small breed enthusiasts will be out in force: Scotties are a favourite. It was Queen Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent, who started it all when she commissioned Sir Edwin Landseer to paint Victoria's King Charles spaniel, Dash, for her 17th birthday in 1836. After that, middle-class dogs got quite blasé about posing for artists. An estimate of £100-£200 is on a painting of one of Queen Victoria's cairn terriers. Something Victorian lingers in British dog paintings. For an estimated £400-600 you might buy the hearty, hilltop image of

what looks for all the world like Miss Joan Hunter Dunn and her dogs. With exhilarated smile, flapping mac and jodhpurs, this pre-war paragon holds three greyhounds on a leash – surely Britain's answer to that corrupting continental Louis leart and his thinly draped women with borzoi.

The Japanese will be vastly outnumbered by Americans and Europeans at Christie's Oriental sale, South Kensington, Thursday (10.30am) but

they will be greatly envied for the way they feel the netlike, those tiny clothing toggles in ivory, coral and wood. Prices from £100 to £1,000 range. The daredevil aerial exploits of "Colonel" Cody convinced the War Office that aeroplanes had no future. The 271-lot sale offers six fragments from the tree where he tethered his aeroplane prior to its historical flight: estimate £200-£300.

John Windsor

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## shopping

# Take a look at these images from television commercials. They look harmless enough. Now look again

Does drug-related imagery used in advertising encourage drug experimentation among the young? By Alix Sharkey

A man takes a single spoonful of a substance and puts it in his mouth. Instantly, he is transported to another world, where multi-coloured objects swirl around his head, a place full of surreal visions and primary colours. He rushes headlong into this parallel universe. His eyes bulge and his head swivels through 360 degrees: the substance is so powerful that his senses cannot cope with it.

What is this terrifying compound with the power to induce such a mind-blowing trip, replete with mystic visions? The latest hallucinogenic drug from California, perhaps? In fact it is something far more pernicious, simply because it is so readily available. It is being sold right now on a street corner near you. Teenagers all over the country are getting hooked on it. The name of this substance? Kellogg's new Fruit 'n' Fibre cereal.

The Fruit 'n' Fibre ad is the latest in a line of commercials whose imagery appears to draw on the effects of mind-altering substances. Another that suggests altered states of perception is the Smirnoff ad in which people and objects viewed through a vodka bottle are distorted in a manner redolent of psychedelic hallucinations.

According to Ben Lewis - who has analysed several such commercials for *Wired World*, Channel 4's new media series - there is a growing trend for TV advertising that, consciously or otherwise, reflects states of mind more readily associated with LSD or Ecstasy, rather than vitamins A, B and C. Mr Lewis calls them "sanitised representations of euphoria".

Blatantly trippy visuals were first employed three years ago by the ad agency Howell Henry Chaldecott Lury (HHCL), whose ground-breaking Pot Noodle ad, featuring strobing psychedelic imagery and a heavy metal soundtrack, led to complaints that it triggered convulsions among epileptics. It was subsequently re-cut with a more subdued effect. "The Kellogg's Fruit 'n' Fibre," says HHCL's director Rupert Howell, "is merely continuing in this tradition."

Advertising consultant Malcolm Evans, who advises agencies on the messages that their ads - wittingly and unwittingly - are putting across, says "there is undoubtedly a noticeable increase in the number of ads that have obvious or oblique references to psychedelic states, or Ecstasy culture in its various forms". The recent upturn in the advertising industry's fortunes, he believes, has brought an influx of



The Fruit 'n' Fibre ad: a man takes a spoonful of cereal, and is transported into a world where multi-coloured objects whirl about and an apple is shot off his head



The Smirnoff ad: people and objects viewed through a vodka bottle are distorted in a manner redolent of psychedelic hallucinations

young creatives steeped in the rave culture, whose work clearly refers to this background.

Recent examples, he claims, include the Club 18-30 commercial that ironically invites you to "Put on your disco clothes and dance to the trendy beat". Evans points out that all the letter E's in the text are highlighted with dots, while in smaller type viewers are advised to check out the "real" ads in youth-oriented glossies like *Sky* magazine.

The latest commercial to catch Evans' eye is for Schizun, a new soft drink. "It features silver dolphins, an animated 3-D mandala, and floating pyramids. It's incredibly psychedelic," he says. "Even its slogan, 'Refresh Your Senses', is a reference to Aldous Huxley's quote about 'cleansing the doors of perception'."

Of course, advertising aimed at young consumers will, by definition, be louder,

faster, more aggressive and colourful than commercials for health care, pensions, frozen peas and pet food. It's simply an expression of the Zeitgeist, according to Howell. "It's not conscious," he says. "There's no way that advertisers sit down and ask how they can get drug-related images into their work. But they are trying to say that certain of these products give you a rush, either physical or emotional, which by definition has a parallel with the rush you might get from an illicit substance."

Having acknowledged the parallel, Howell argues that such advertising has a positive side, because "it's better for people to get a 'fix' out of these kinds of products". But this begs another question: is advertising simply responding to a popular need for a "fix"? Has the country become that drug-literate? Howell quotes a recent survey suggesting that more than a third, and pos-

sibly up to half of all 15-year-olds have experimented with drugs. "And I'd be willing to bet a very high percentage of people in their thirties had also tried drugs by the time they were that age, too." The principal consumers of today, in other words, are unlikely to be fazed by drug references.

According to Virginia Lee of the Independent Television Commission (ITC), any "obvious" drug references are in the eye of the beholder. "Without question, any advertisement which was interpreted by viewers as an encouragement to take drugs would not be acceptable for broadcast. However, the ITC does not believe that these are images that will cause difficulties." She dismisses the *Wired World* argument that the Fruit 'n' Fibre commercial draws on drug-related imagery and might encourage drug experimentation among the young. "Frankly,

that's taking the interpretation one step too far."

Advertising is the dreaming of the society that spawns it, therefore it should come as no surprise if drug references start appearing in our TV commercials. After all, we live in a culture that seems obsessed with the desire for euphoric altered states.

If it sometimes seems that the media is overstating the case, consider this. While writing this article I got a call from a company specialising in corporate sponsorship, who wondered if I could say, roughly, how many tablets of Ecstasy were consumed in Britain each year. The reason? "Because we're pitching for a big account with a soft drinks company, see, and that's their market..."

*Wired World* will be broadcast this Sunday on Channel 4 at 8 pm.

the thing about...

## Doc Martens

If one item of clothing could claim the longest history of marking the generation gap, Dr Marten's boots - "DMs" - must compete for that noble accolade. For nigh-on 20 years, parents have been pulling faces as their offspring laced themselves into big green boots, big brown boots, and big black boots.

Like jeans and leather jackets before them, such navy clothing has come to symbolise rugged, if uniform, individualism. Back in the mid-Seventies, they meant steel toe caps. Skinheads, apparently, always bought their DMs with steel toe caps, the better to kick people. This was partly just rumour: skinheads, after all, tended to work in the building and allied trades, and needed toe caps to fend off falling girders.

Things have got a bit more sophisticated since then. The range now includes DMs in velvet (£44.99), pink snakeskin (£44.99) and pink and gold lace (£39.99).

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But the thing about Docs is this frightening thought. In the end, as those who started their sartorial lives in them refuse to ditch them in favour of more respectable footwear, Doc Martens must pass from favour with the young. They will hunt another shoe to wring groans from their aged relations. Will the current generation gasp in suppressed agony as their sons and daughters slip a pair of Dr Scholls over their American tan tights?

Serena Mackesy

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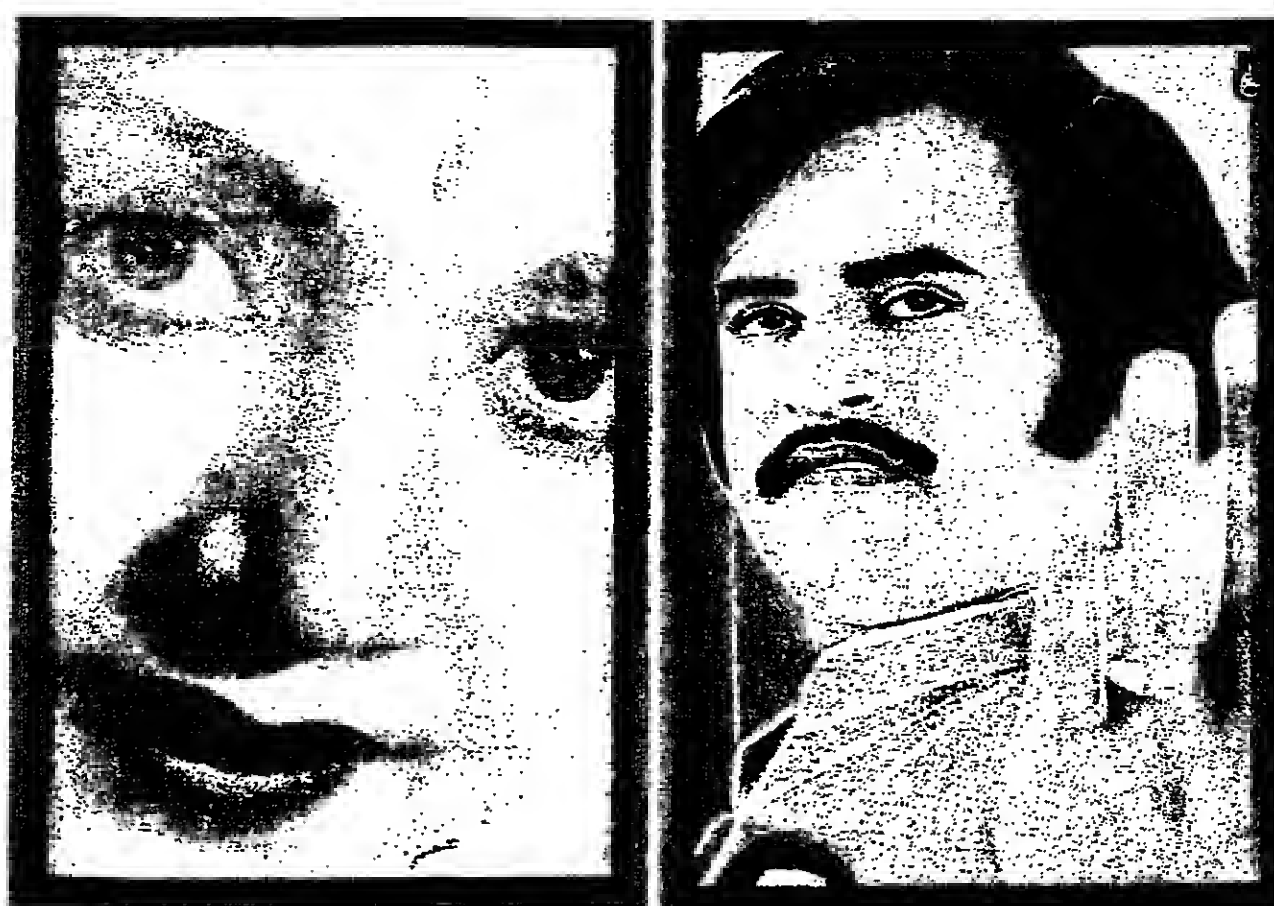
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# There are stars. And there are artists



Rock stars have always been artistic. They sing, they dance, they act, they write poetry. They exhibit their potato prints. In the case of David Byrne, they're even quite good. By Giles Smith



Main photographs (left to right) Byrne's 'ActionLoveGods' (1991) and 'ActionLoveGods: Rajanikant' (1991)



Above: the oil painting of David Byrne (left) did the sleeve of his album *Blood and Chocolate*, in essence a portrait of a ram in a crash helmet



Spot the difference: Above: Self-Portrait (after Van Gogh) by David Byrne (left) which appeared on the cover of his last album, *Turbulent Indigo*



Above: African painting by David Byrne (left), whose one-man exhibition last year had some begging him to produce a new album

Photo: Richard Young/Rex

There is a form of pop art which has nothing to do with comic book figures talking and thinking in bubbles, nor with paintings of Campbell's soup cans. It is the art made by pop stars in their spare time. Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan, David Bowie and Ronnie Wood of the Rolling Stones – all have chosen at some point in their careers to give the music a rest and go public with their daubs and dabbles. And now here comes the former leader of Talking Heads, David Byrne, with *Strange Ritual*, initially just the title of a track on Byrne's last album, but now also the name of an exhibition of the singer, songwriter and guitarist's photographs at the Photographers' Gallery in London. The images on show are, along with many further Byrne photos, gathered into an impressively-hound book called, again, *Strange Ritual*. No singing, no guitars, just "an extraordinary document of contemporary culture in our diverse world by one of its keenest observers", that's according to Faber & Faber, who publish the book.

History suggests that when pop musicians do art, it is well to stand clear. Brave is he that ventures down that road, for it is a road spattered with queasy oils, iffy snaps and disastrous gouaches. Attempting heroically to narrow the chasm between the Turners – Tina and JMW – the rock star with his hopeful portfolio is frequently the victim of a piece of faulty logic: you liked the album, so you'll love the watercolours. A number of the guilty at least confine themselves to exhibiting their work on their own album sleeves, rather than for sale in public galleries. Bob Dylan, for instance, painted the big head which looks out at us from the cover of the *Self-Portrait* album. (It would make thematic sense if this were indeed a self-portrait, but the evidence offered by this mostly pale blue and tangerine blob with one black ear, is not conclusive.)

Nick Mason of Pink Floyd, meanwhile, did the pen-and-ink number on the front of *Relics*, depicting what appears to be an elaborate steam-organ in a style in which Heath Robinson meets Aubrey Beardsley (and doesn't much get on with him). And Elvis Costello did the oil painting of the ram in a crash helmet which appears on the sleeve of *Blood & Chocolate* (though he hid behind the name Eamonn Slinger in the hope that no one would notice).

Not content with setting before us products hot from his sketchbook, John Lennon went so far as to offer up some of his juvenilia for the cover of *Walls and Bridges*, including, most prominently, a doodle of Arsenal playing Newcastle in the 1952 FA Cup Final, when Lennon was (as he touchingly informed us at the top of the picture) "Age 11". A similar effect was achieved much more recently by Sinéad O'Connor in her painting for the sleeve of her *Universal Mother* album – a picture of two naked figures and a wall in a hail of asteroids, or of two people clinging inside an enormous peacock, depending on how you look at it. Its execution might be thought to recapture some of the artist's child-like energies – though less sympathetic analysts will simply think a kid did it with a potato.

But still more bold, David Bowie held his first one-man show last year in London, filling a chichi West-End place with a selection of wooden heads and a batch of computer-treated images, in which some claimed to detect the hand of greatness while others reached hastily for the migraine tablets.

Ronnie Wood, too, has shown his various pen-and-inks and acrylics, most of them sweetly fan-like studies of his muckers in the Stones: "Keef" with a fag on, in tense-faced communion with his axe, and so on. Joni Mitchell has exhibited paintings in London and New York. But

then Mitchell is apt to say in interviews that she regards herself as a painter first and foremost (though not with the avidity of Captain Beefheart, or rather Don van Vliet, who long ago abandoned music and withdrew to the desert to make pictures instead). Not just any old painter, either. She appeared on the cover of her 1994 album, *Turbulent Indigo*, painted in oils like a self-portrait by Van Gogh, complete with handbagged ear. Once again, the picture was one of the artist's own.

If Phil Collins were suddenly to dump on us a patiently accumulated A3 folder of earnest etchings, we would not be surprised – though we would possibly smirk. The derision that one tries (or doesn't bother) to suppress at the thought of rock stars coming over all arty on us has, at its root, a sense that the refinement of serious artistic endeavour is a considerable train-journey away from the hog-snooring world of rock'n'roll and can only look hapless there. Humour bubbles at this prospect the way it does in that classic moment from *This Is Spinal Tap* where the guitarist Nigel Tufnel, contemplative at the piano, performs the pretty and sad piece he's working on: it sounds vaguely like Rachmaninov, but he's named it "Lick My Lovepump". The rock star as hugely untalented Cubist or mock-casual Da Vinci was perhaps the only trope which Spinal Tap didn't find space for.

If anyone was going to overturn the cliché and become the first person to pass comfortably from the charts to a gallery, it was likely to be David Byrne. When so much of his work as a songwriter is observational, it could hardly shock us to discover him to have alert eyes. Also, he's always been a different sort of rock star. Some of the *Strange Ritual* photographs have appeared, differently laid-out, as sleeve illustrations for Talking Heads records: "Chair Quaternion", for instance, a set of four, inexplicably funny pictures of an armchair pushed variously on to its sides and back and shot in front of a bland yellow curtain. These pictures were taken at the Sunset Marquis Hotel in Los Angeles, and that says it all really. Rather than trashing hotel rooms, Byrne is the kind of rock star who mildly re-arranges them in the pursuit of a photo-opportunity.

Byrne took these photographs, for the most part, while on tour as a musician. Touring is notoriously a monotonous and brain-depleting experience, but Byrne makes it look a lot more exciting. There are photos of a car wreck and of a Shinto shrine. There is a picture of something in a glass case purporting to be the hand and arm of St John the Baptist, on exhibition in Istanbul. There's a brightly-coloured vending machine, shot up close in Tokyo. There are pieces of alarmed graffiti, titled (by Byrne)

"Visionary Messages". Previously discrete cultures mix and merge here in variously cheerful and chaotic ways. There are pictures of relics and pictures of garbage, and no suggestion that the latter is any less spirited than the former.

That said, a couple of the images suggest only the imponderable weight of a touring rock star's downtime. At what kind of loose end do you have to be to take an extended series of Polaroids of your own hands? More arresting perhaps are the pictures in which the pop artist borrows from pop art. These are the large colour photographs taken in supermarkets, showing ranks of stacked goods: cans of one-step oven cleaner, packets of mothballs, boxes of Wonderfool, tubes of Colgate, whose brightly-coloured towers turn into a kind of kinetic art when abruptly cropped and seen on a flat plain.

It's a shame the Photographers' Gallery has either chosen, or had made available to them, what are perhaps the least interesting images in the *Strange Ritual* book. These are those hands (part of a short series of Polaroid montages) and the series titled "ActionLoveGods", photographs of representations of faces, many of them found on film posters in Madras, which seem somewhat baldly appropriated.

There are photographs of the jackets of books which Byrne has picked up, attracted by, among other things, the magnificent promises contained in their titles: *How To Do All Things*, *The Truth About Mars*, *The Book of Knowledge* (this one rather despairingly thin and tattered). In an interview with *Creative Camera*, partly reproduced at the back of *Strange Ritual*, Byrne says of these pictures: "Books are meant to be read, not treated as objects to be photographed," adding, rather portentously, that here "their function has been perverted and destroyed". This sounds dark and devious, though it's not clear why that shouldn't be the effect of photographing absolutely anything. These pictures work a far simpler trick: the passing on of a good joke. It is hardly academic to wonder whether we would be interested in these photographs if anybody else less famous had taken them. They come to us announced as pictures by David Byrne, and part of our curiosity in them is an extension of our curiosity about him. In fact one of the pleasures of going over the book is in thinking, "Isn't it just like what we know about David Byrne that he would want to take a photograph of that?" This is not to say the pictures will be of limited interest to people unfamiliar with or unconcerned by Byrne's work as a musician, but a bit of background probably helps. As with the work of Ronnie Wood – or maybe not.

Until 9 March. Contact: 0171-831 1772

## Seven ways to satisfy an appetite for violent death

Here is a modest paradox about thrillers – the more effective they are the less you are likely to see. Indeed, a film that you can stare at without a quiver of disquiet could well be dismissed as "unwatchable". A highly watchable thriller, on the other hand, can be one in which you spend large portions of your time staring at your shoes, allowing the climax on the soundtrack to tell you when it is once again safe to let your eyes stray towards the screen.

*Seven*, the subject of a veritable tsunami of word-of-mouth recommendation, falls into the latter category. Indeed, I found myself wondering during some sections whether I might be able to claim a small discount on the ticket price, in the way that blind television viewers are allowed to reclaim a tiny portion of their licence fee.

But *Seven* achieves its effect in a way entirely at odds with more conventional

thrillers. The action takes place in a series of dingy interiors, rooms into which the light seems to have fought its way before sinking down exhausted. The place and time are indeterminate – an unspecified metropolitan U-bend. There's no fixed horizon here, so that the swells of dread and disgust that accompany each successive crime mount to a queasy disorientation. The policeman carry torches with them everywhere and you can understand why – the city sits beneath a permanent depression, overcast and weeping.

All of this is, to say the least, very effective. From its deranged credit sequence onwards *Seven* works on you with a madly even pressure, apparently indifferent to the requirements of form. Instead of the conventional Hollywood rollercoaster – slow, ratcheted pulls to an invisible drop, followed by a plunge of action – the ride is surprisingly flat, just a numb



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

display of consequences. You never see the killer preparing to strike – obligatory in most serial-killer movies – only a forensic account of the mess he leaves behind him. Virtually everything is posthumous in this film. And it's here, rather than in moments of tension, that more squeamish viewers will have to avert their eyes. Every detail of morbid pathology, every scuttling infestation of the crime scene, is lovingly displayed.

This seems to have been mistaken by some viewers, and some critics too, as a form of integrity, a way of being unflinching about the

reality of violence. But something odd is going on. These scenes are offered for our viewing pleasure, as odd as that might seem to those sensitive souls whose first instinct is to bury their head in their hands when a decomposing corpse displays its livid charms. The killer at the heart of *Seven* is an artist of cruelty, painstaking in his delivery of pain. And we are enlisted as an enthusiastic audience for his work, eager for each successive exhibition, which must exceed its predecessor in novelty and flair.

But though the film pretends to be fully consistent in its gaze, it betrays its muddled morality in its final twist. In only one of the murders are we not permitted to stare at the indignity of death, specifically because this is the only victim the film has allowed us to form a relationship with. This dispatch is as cruel and bloody as its predecessors, as susceptible to the genius of

special effects, but the camera will not look. To have done so would have been unacceptable to the audience, a horror too far. And without giving anything away, that isn't because some dreadful peak of ingenuity has been reached by the killer, rather because to gawk at someone we know would make it abundantly clear to moviegoers exactly what they have been doing for the preceding 80 minutes – satisfying an appetite for violent death. It isn't, in other words, because the final deed simply couldn't be shown but because it would have felt improper for us to look.

This isn't unliking at all. It is simply to discriminate between disposable people – defence lawyers, drug-dealers and the overweight – and those we notionally care about. For all the allusions to Thomas Aquinas and Milton, *Seven* is no more elevated in its principle than the average Stallone blockbuster.



Grunt expectations: Portia the pig loved whisky, mated with a dog and succumbed to depression. Elspeth Barker ponders the troubled psyche of her prize pet porker

Plus: Suzanne Glass on the strength and the sorrow of Leah Rabin

And Kenneth Branagh and Helena Bonham Carter in Italy

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



# arts reviews

## TELEVISION

### Northern Lights (BBC2)

Independent spirit runs wild in three shorts from Northern Ireland. By Jasper Rees

The opening shot of *Skin Tight* pans across a sun-drenched suburban neighbourhood to a man on a flat roof. He is violating the municipal peace by hammering the life out of a king-size drum. You couldn't imagine a more suitable entrée for Northern Lights, a shorts strand from BBC Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Film Council which bangs the drum for film-making talent in a locality still riven by tension.

Thanks to a midnight transmission, the noise made by the three films will have done little more than entertain the odd insomniac. Nationalists will doubtless detect in this dismissive scheduling the stench of metropolitan disdain for provincial endeavour. But they will have had no grumbles about content.

Two of the films poked fun at pernicious Orangemen, who come over all twitchy at the looming of the marching season. In *The Cake*, by Pat Griffin, a girl delivered the baroque conffection, topped with bowler-hatted figurines in tangerine sashes, to her local Orange Lodge. The cake was rejected on grounds of containing too much green; on the twelfth, even the grass must be orange. Back in her kitchen, where a wall lined with pictures of JFK and Jesus showed her own colours, she vengefully scoffed a figurine's head.

In the age of the peace process, the Troubles have been re-routed into symbolism. *Skin Tight*, written and directed by John Forte, compressed the vast canvas of sectarian aggression into a snappy comedy about a goat. A man's preparations for the marching season were undermined by inferior goathide that punctures under the weight of too fervent bannering. With the money sidelined by his wife for a Spanish holiday, he invested in a pedigree goat that she initially resented but soon protectively befriended.

As the camera tracked the blood trickling down the bath plug, the goat became yet another victim of the Troubles. But the wife gained her cheeky revenge by turning the skin into a traditional Irish bodhran to play at the ceilidhs on the coastal holiday proposed by the goat's slaughterer. *Everybody's Gone* took off to the coast, and you could see why a native might prefer not to holiday there. From his boggy, windy perch, a farmer's dreamy son gazed out to sea, the conduit for another traditional Irish activity: emigration. Some Americans, whose ancestors presumably left these shores several generations back, turned up on the beach. To the disgust of his old man, a bit of a Gradgrind when it comes to escapism, the boy defiantly caught the surf bug.

Whether coincidence or not, every story cleaved to the same underlying theme: of authority and tradition meeting their match in the underdog's independence of spirit. While these runes make only the vaguest prediction about Northern Ireland's wider future, they announce very clearly that the local film industry has every right to live in hope.

## THEATRE *Flesh Fly*, Oval House, London

Graeae, Britain's leading company for disabled people, has reworked Ben Jonson's *Volpone* and produced a real gem. By Paul Taylor



Nabil Shaban (*Volpone*) and Simon Startin (*Mosca*) in Ewan Marshall's dazzling *Flesh Fly*

Photograph: Stuart Morris

Ben Jonson's *Volpone* famously centres on a rich Venetian *mag-nifico* who pretends to be ill, bed-bound and dying so as to trick an assortment of avaricious fools into plying him with presents in the hope of becoming his heir. At the start of the play, he is as capable of running rings round these dupes physically as well as mentally. But what happens to that key joke if the actor playing *Volpone* is disabled and can't get off his wheelchair unassisted? It's a question you are invited to ask when watching Ewan Marshall's compelling, forcefully disarming production of *Flesh Fly*, an adaptation of Jonson's savage satire that Trevor Lloyd has made for Graeae, the leading theatre company for disabled people.

From cerebral palsy to profound deafness, all the cast members here have some impairment. That's a fact which comes into calculated ironic collision with some of the play's postulates and attitudes. The hero, for example, keeps a retinue of "imperfect creatures" – a dwarf, a eunuch, and an hermaphrodite – who are supposed to be fleshly parodies of *Volpone*'s own warped spirit. Then there are the deafness gags, the jokes at the expense of the hero's supposed physical decrepitude and his eventual punishment, to lie in irons in the hospital of the Incurable until he is as sick as he has pretended to be. There's no danger of mistaking Jonson for a modern liberal in such matters.

Marshall's production comes at all this head-on with a comic zest that is free from either sentimentality or brooding bitterness. Planted on a golden wheelchair, his tiny crippled body brought powerfully alive by the subversive glee in his eyes, Nabil Shaban's *Volpone* man-

ages to both send up the suitors for his wealth and – through the zany, upside-down postures with which he caricatures the character's pretence of infirmity – to complicate the category distinctions of the play with exuberant defiance.

Some of Jonson's satire has, it's true, been simplified in this slimmed-down English version. Celia is here raped by *Volpone* in fact as well as intention which makes her a straightforward victim figure rather than Jonson's unimaginative pious stick who, in some ways, throws a flattering light on the Protean inventiveness of the hero. The fact that she is mimed by a profoundly deaf male actor gives her overtones of ravished, tongueless Philomel.

At first resembling the thin, straight man in a North Country comedy duo, then progressing to something altogether more sinister, Simon Startin is very fine as *Volpone*'s sidekick Mosca and there are lots of good interpolated jokes, from the moment when, oedding a woman to prostitute to *Volpone*, Jonathan Keeble's Corvino briefly considers the onstage Sign Language Interpreter Vikki Gee Dare, to the Damiano First-style fox suspended in a glass cabinet that is one of the art works brought to bribe the hero. Movingly, the performers help one another out. In her piping high Liverpoolian, Mandy Collieran utters the lines which Neil Fox's Celia cannot speak. It reminds you that the company's name Graeae comes from the three women in Greek myth who shared a single tooth and eye. An evening you won't forget in a hurry.

To 28 Jan Booking: 0171-582 7680

## CLASSICAL

### LSO/Philharmonia, Barbican

Robert Cowan on two opposing Ninths: Davis's Bruckner and Zander's Mahler

The first Barbican "Mozart-Bruckner" concert suggested musical time-travellers in contrast. Mozart offering a carefree moment of a more leisured age. Bruckner a Symphony (his uncompleted Ninth) that transcends time, period and nationality. And the contrasts certainly didn't stop there. In the Mozart, Sir Colin Davis's genial conducting served as a perfect foil for the sylph-like Midori, whose agile bowing, chaste tone and demonstrative stage manner made sublime entertainment of the Third Violin Concerto.

Stylish both in concept and execution, it was perhaps just a little too self-consciously "eventful", a trifle over-inflected, and with novel adornments that included an added first-movement minicadenza. Davis's Bruckner, on the other hand, wasn't so much eventful as accommodating. Here tempos were mostly slow, textures warmly cosseted, and the phrasing affectionate almost to a fault. The very opening was uncommonly broad, while succeeding episodes seemed more a sequence of Gothic arches than stages in an urgent musical argument. This was a big, Teutonic reading, lavishly expressive, though occasionally lethargic and rather short on rapt pianissimos.

Davis paraded a rational, this-worldly muse rather than the obsessive visionary we've come to expect from, say, Daniel Barenboim. Best of all were the outer sections of the Scherzo, where ear-splitting brass and cannonading timpani conspired for a brutal onslaught that could easily have upstaged *The Rite of Spring*. The Adagio was ooble, warm, almost Brahmsian in texture. Davis drawing a generous stream of string tone, though his rubato seemed less marked than before, a real advantage in the devastating final climax – Bruckner's farthest flight to the Beyond, and a mere stone's throw from Mahler Tén.

The following night saw Mahler responding with his Ninth. British-born Benjamin Zander gave an evangelical pre-concert lecture in which he traced the tone, structure and autobiographical implications of "the ultimate concerto for orchestra". Generous sponsorship had allowed for four rehearsals and, although it must be said that the Philharmonia sounded notably less homogeneous than Davis's LSO, the contrast did sometimes work in Mahler's favour. Most remarkable were the frantic closing pages of the Rondo Burlesque and a searingly impassioned account of the closing Adagio. Yes, the first movement took time to settle, the second was perhaps a shade too blatantly driven, and there was an overall shortage of subtlety, though certain of Zander's "vulgaries" were intentional, especially among the clarinets.

It was a telling juxtaposition. Sir Colin taking control with the merest wave of his left arm, and Zander, red-faced, relentlessly athletic, sometimes holding on only by the skin of his teeth. You could certainly tell the more proficient driver, but then there's something to be said for actually feeling every inch of the ride – rattles, risks and all.

## DICKIE FANTASTIC on the schmooze

## The Lad is dead. Long live the Laddess. Yeah, right

I have often argued that when Youth Television people meet in social situations – media parties and the like – they should be forced to partake in all the activities that they make us watch other people do in their late-night shows. Instead of canapés, for instance, they should be handed sandwiches full of worms. And instead of proper conversations, they should be obliged to talk inane, pointless bullshit in a fervent and pitifully eager manner.

And, I am proud to announce, my suggestions have not gone entirely unheeded. Today – at the launch of Channel 4's new *The Girlie Show*, at Café Mondo, Soho – my latter propo-

sition, at least, appears to have become the new law.

"Yeah, right," announces David Stephenson, Channel 4's head of Youth Television. "I've got some important things to say. All you lazy journalists. This isn't Lad-ess TV. This isn't Lad-ette TV. No way. And, hey! Who's got the right to police pleasure? Who's got the right to police morality?"

"Police pleasure?" I whisper, grinning, to the man to my right.

"Yeah," he replies, solemnly. "Police pleasure. David's got a point. Who has got that right?"

"But Police pleasure..." I say, weakly. "What does that mean?"

"Exactly," says the man.

"No," I say. "What does it mean?"

"Ah," says the man. "I see. Um..."

Our awkward silence is interrupted by the next speaker, introduced by David Stephenson as "a strong woman" (as opposed, I guess, to a woman who has to be carried, whimpering, to the podium). Her name is Courtney, and she is producer of *The Girlie Show*.

"Yeah," she says. "There's been so much lazy journalism. Lad-ess TV. Lad-ette TV? What does that mean? That's not *The Girlie Show*. No way! And it's nothing like *The Word*. Run VT."

What we are shown – for the next 20 minutes – is something that is, indeed,

nothing like *The Word*. Indeed, the presenters, far from including boys, are all girls. Instead of worms being eaten, a man's chest hairs are ripped off him. By girls! Instead of boys talking about breasts, girls talk about penises.

"Earghh. Willies. When they're limp they look like fingers. Willies are horrible. Earghh." "Ha ha ha ha," say the presenters. "And now, our new slot, Wanker of the Week."

And so on. Let me spare you, my reader, from further outrages: suffice to say, comparisons with *The Word* would be the lazy work of a lazy journalist. And I am out lazy. I am wide awake: it is hard not to be, in a room

jam-packed with 14-year-olds in charge of the media, discussing Their Work as if they were writing a thesis to be marked by Simone de Beauvoir.

"What we're doing," says one associate producer to me, "is redefining the role of women in the later Nineties. This isn't Lad-ettes – it's post Lad. We have devoured The Lad and constructed a whole new aspect of TV womanhood. Esther? No! Ulrika? No!"

"Anneka?" I ask.

"No!" she exclaims.

"Ah," I say. "I see. I pause. 'But tell me,' I ask. 'Is this important?'"

"Define important," she replies.

"Well," I say. "Important means of

import. Opposite to insignificant. If something is important it is also, say, consequential..."

"Yes," she interrupts, a little testily. "Of course it is important. We are teaching women to be themselves, and teaching men to put up or shut up. Yeah..."

She pauses.

"That's it," she says. "Put up. Or shut up. Tell your readers that. Tell them to put up or shut up."

"OK," I say. "That's what I'll do."

"Good," she says. And she looks down at my notepad and makes absolutely sure that I have written down the words: "Put Up Or Shut Up".



## KEY

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- OK
- POOR
- DEADLY

## overview

Bernard Haitink conducts Tippett's first and greatest work in a new production by Graham Vick, choreographed by Ron Howell and designed by Paul Brown, starring John Tomlinson and Cheryl Barker.

## critical view

Nicholas Williams was unequivocal. "Make sure you catch the production." "What life-enhancing music this is," marvelled the *Financial Times*. "The absolutely essential Royal Opera has delivered the goods. Don't miss," applauded the *Times*. "The production team has matched and enhanced Tippett's incandescent score with radiant ideas," enthused the *Telegraph*.

## on view

At Covent Garden (0171-304 4080) on 27 Jan, 8, 12, 14 Feb. The three dramas continue in *The House* on BBC2, Tuesdays.

## our view

The first ever production of the work score, but the programme synopsis is a dud so read up on it before you go.

## THE DANCE

### CORAZON FLAMENCO

Francisco Sanchez, creator of the marvellous *Cuñibre Flamenco*, returns with a double bill comprising a new flamenco drama and a traditional virtuoso duet, starring Manuela "the Goddess" Carrasco.

Sophie Constant found the dance drama "ridiculously over-the-top," but described some of the two as "memorable." Other critics agreed. "A travesty of Sanchez's previous form," *the show* recovers in a too-short second half," bemoaned the *Independent on Sunday*. "Heartbreaking," concluded the *Telegraph*. "Uneven," said *Time Out*. "The audience clamoured for more," observed the *Times*.

At Sadler's Wells, London EC1 (0171-713 6000) to 10 Feb.

The press night was marred by dreadful amplified sound. With any luck it has been sorted out.

## THE FILM

### LEAVING LAS VEGAS

Mike Figgis writes and directs a modestly heart-breaking, drinking-related tale about a man who is awarded in the US, starring Nicolas Cage and newcomer Elisabeth Shue.

Adam Mars-Jones found it "a... and... pleasures." "Compulsive," cheered *Time Out*. "This deeply romantic film" seemed neither depressing nor sentimental," explained the *Guardian*. "Watching the film was like waiting to be cut free," confessed the *Evening Standard*. "Only the most stout-hearted should pass the film by," ordered the *Times*.

At the Brixton Ritzy (0171-737 2121), across London, and at selected cinemas nationwide.

Seriously better than Figgis's *The Browning Version*. As good as his *Liebestraum* was bad. (Very.)

## THE PLAY

### AN IDEAL HUSBAND

John Gielgud's production of the play, which was first performed in 1913, is a new production by Graham Vick, choreographed by Ron Howell and designed by Paul Brown, starring John Tomlinson and Cheryl Barker.

John Gielgud's production of the play, which was first performed in 1913, is a new production by Graham Vick, choreographed by Ron Howell and designed by Paul Brown, starring John Tomlinson and Cheryl Barker.

At the Royal Haymarket (0171-930 8800) at 7.45pm, Weds & Sat, 10pm, Sun.

Hardman Martin Shaw is cast against type as the dandy and steals the show. Peter Hall's finest production in years.



# Working both sides of the street

Freud was baffled by it, homosexuals deplore it, David Bowie regrets it and American students love it. Bisexuality still evades definition. By Roger Clarke



Who, us? James Stewart, Cary Grant and Katharine Hepburn striving to conceal the bisexual undercurrent in *The Philadelphia Story* (1940)

Vice Versa: Bisexuality and the Eroticism of Everyday Life by Marjorie Garber, Hamish Hamilton, £25

Compared with everyone else, Woody Allen once observed, a bisexual at a party had a fifty-percent better chance of going home with someone at the end of the evening. This would appear to be an amusingly self-evident truth; yet as Professor Marjorie Garber demonstrates in her exhaustive and often magisterial book on the subject of "switch-hitters", it would be equally true to say bisexuals would have rather less chance than anyone else at the party.

Their uppopularity is widespread. Heterosexuals quite irrationally fear bisexuals are a conduit for Aids. Gays perceive bisexuals as double agents who won't "come out" and be good homosexuals. They're seen as treacherous and shifty, as bearers of a wrath-of-God disease on the goodly, as subverters of marriage — who'd want to go home with one of them? "Saying I was bisexual was the biggest mistake I ever made," David Bowie told *Rolling Stone* in the mid-Eighties.

Marjorie Garber tells us that, these days, American college kids increasingly define themselves as bisexual, much to the disgust of older gay activists. Bisexual chic is stalking the media. But what is "a bisexual"? It's not clear. Freud had at least five definitions of the term. In statistical studies, bisexuals are lumped together with gays, though logically they might as well be counted heterosexual. No-one is ever "converted" to bisexuality. Bisexuals are always sandwiched between heterosexuality and homosexuality (unfairly perpetrating the notion of an immature, transitional state, Garber argues convincingly).

They are everywhere and nowhere (either 80 per cent of the population or one per cent, according to which figures you believe). This visible-invisible paradox is one of Garber's most arresting motifs. She is like a research chemist looking for a mysterious, rare element which is in fact very common, depending on how it is perceived.

Wilhelm Fleiss, an Ear, Nose and Throat surgeon from Berlin, first dreamed up the modern notion of "bisexuality" in the 1890s. From the first, bisexuality was more about theory than etiology; it certainly a gateway to other worlds but perhaps it was simultaneously a world itself. "I do not in the least underestimate bisexuality," Freud wrote to Fleiss in 1898. "I expect it to provide all further enlightenment."

But Freud never managed his bisexual theory of everything. Bisexuality, notes Garber with



'So do I': Grief, York and Minelli in *Cabaret* (1972)

a little unseemly triumphalism in her tone, "undoes statistics, confounds dimorphism...no callipers fit the shape of desire, which remains thickly unquantifiable by even the most finely tested instruments". Jung fared little better: his conclusions about immutable male and female principles are shakier than would first appear (Freud thought female characteristics in boys included "shyness, modesty and the need for instruction").

The ancient certainties of New Aegres about male and female principles are no more certain than some of the doddier prescriptions in Leviticus against depilating stoats. And what of the ancient idea of the hermaphrodite? Garber upbraids one critic for praising the film of *Orlando* for its sexually "transcendent" quality. "The real question about androgyny," notes Garber acidly, "is how it comes to mean both sexlessness and sexiness at the same time. What's sexy about crossover gender cues, or sexual misreading, or undecipherable gender?" What indeed?

We are communal creatures and no-one can exist without a tribe. So it's hardly surprising that much of Garber's book is taken up with reclaiming various historical figures, films and books as "bisexual". One brilliant section concludes that love triangles in movies are a bisexual paradigm (but how did she miss out on the Cary Grant/James Stewart/Katharine Hepburn undercurrents in *The Philadelphia Story*?)

Yet reclaiming bisexuals is fraught with difficulties since, even by the end of the book, we still have no definition of bisexuality. Is it "lifestyle", "sexual attitude" or "sexuality"?

Would a gay man who has one sexual encounter with a woman become automatically bisexual for the rest of his life? How many years would have to elapse before he was gay again? Does Calvin Klein's sequence of perfumes — "Obsession", "Escape" and the bisexual stink of "CK" — adequately mirror his recent flight from married life into the arms of a mao?

While men like Leonard Bernstein and Lord Byron were "sequential" bisexuals all their lives (alternating male and female lovers at random), Oscar Wilde was clearly not. Garber claims him as a bisexual simply because he kept to friendly touch with his wife after the trial, and, in his last year in Paris, indulged in a dismal and distressing visit to a female prostitute. Vita Sackville-West also seems a bad example of a bisexual; she was an androgyne who preferred women and was married to a gay man. Didn't Rimbaud call himself a "widowed soul" for not having a female partner? And didn't William Burroughs marry and have a son? I note Garber steers well clear of reclaiming him (he'd have come round with a shotgun next day).

Garber puzzlingly segues the martial pederasty of ancient Greece into modern bisexuality, noting a Greek preference for "women and boys" from Meleager onwards. Yet having spent pages attacking the sloppy definitions of "gay" and "bisexual" everywhere, from Simon LeVay's autopsies on gay brains to *Cosmopolitan* surveys, Garber herself sloppily uses the term "men and boys" as a particular sexual preference. But men who like boys do not like fully-grown men, Byron didn't like "women and boys

and men". He liked women and boys.

I'm also intrigued that Garber spends the whole of this massive, 607-page book discussing "desire" and "eroticism" without once addressing the concept of "disgust". De Sade knew that desire and disgust were two sides of a coin. Both homosexuality and heterosexuality are defined, not only by what they desire, but what they actively don't desire. What people have always found baffling about the concept of bisexuality is that there appears to be no disgust in it; the sexual organs of each sex are equally attractive. And are male bisexuals the same as female bisexuals?

I'm really not sure after reading this book whether I'm bisexual or not, or whether bisexuality "exists". Garber finishes with an image from Jacques Derrida: why are two left shoes together not called a pair of shoes? Resisting the temptation to say "because they're useless", this is none the less an interesting analogue for the bisexual dilemma which says, effectively: Why aren't three shoes called a pair of shoes?

Garber's towering achievement is to stake out a territory, to propose a kind of universal and unacknowledged "erotic" field which touches us invisibly and constantly. The side issues she covers (male/female givens and gay/straight arrogance) are often more significant than the subject she appears to be tackling head-on. At one point Garber, quite legitimately, reclaims vampirism from gay studies as a clear bisexual parable. Are these shadows real? Do bisexuals exist? No, you might conclude. But maybe bisexuality does.

## Hit by a macho avalanche

A mountaineer's memoirs double up as an exploration of masculinism. By Martin Booth

Recent years have seen the emergence of a literary trend dedicated to the re-assertion of male machismo — the kind of thing you used to find in ripping yarns and jingoistic, occasionally racist, tales by writers such as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and O. Henry. This vogue hit a peak with the publication of American poet Robert Bly's male manifesto, *Iron John*, and true stories such as Andy McNab's *Bravo Two Zero*, a narrative of hard-core male endurance and courage triumphing over destiny and military stupidity.

This renaissance of bookish masculinity was perhaps inevitable after three decades of feminist propaganda which did neither gender any real good. In fact, it split them apart, forcing an unnatural divide between two fundamental aspects of humanity which had previously gained strength from each other before being hijacked for the pontification of politically

correct agendas. To many, the future seemed to lie, not in compromise or understanding but in stressing the difference between the sexes, a varicose further complicated by the clamorous proclamations of the gay community.

Into this muddled, unsatisfactory situation there now arrives, however, a new perspective promoted by a writer who initially seems a most unlikely seer. Joe Simpson looks at first sight to be a character straight out of *Boy's Own Paper*: tough and good-looking enough to be an extra in *Goldeneye*, he is a mountaineer of repute whose courage and tenacity for life have been proven many times on glaciers and sheer rock-faces.

This, his third book, starts with a description of being hit by an avalanche while climbing an unscaled Himalayan peak and goes on to recall such encounters as a brush with the Peruvian police — for whom civil rights and human

Storms of Silence  
by Joe Simpson  
Cape, £17.99

dignity are not priorities — and a violent contretemps with a tattooed yob over a pub pool table in Sheffield. These events test Simpson's manhood, in one way or another.

Yet they do not test him in the manner one might expect, for Simpson, though used to battling the elements on a near-vertical mountain, is not one for belligerence. He has learnt, as his book explains with fascinating clarity, that the natural way to overcome aggression, which is of itself born of primal fear and anxiety, is not to give vent to these emotions but to assimilate them into a conscious understanding of what drives them.

By doing this, he also comes to appreciate what constitutes his own essential masculinity and what underlies the primitive instincts which drive our species towards acts of barbarity.

There is a certain homespun quality to Simpson's thinking. He faces not only human but also natural violence with the stoicism of one who has embraced their potentialities and he sometimes allows the loneliness of the mountains to impinge upon him.

High in the Peruvian Andes, he hears the voices of the ghosts of the thousands killed in an earthquake in the valley below — the sounds revitalising memories of a visit, as a child, to the site of a concentration camp whilst, in the wastes of Tibet, the spiritual home of transcendental meditation, he compares the raw beauty of nature with the destruction of Tibetan culture by Chinese imperialism.

Simpson's interpretations of his

experiences may be unsophisticated but they are nevertheless genuine and meaningful. By way of his approach to life, which is essentially masculine, he taps into an intrinsic inner peace, through which he seeks to develop a personal psychological creed of understanding and self-determination, using this to explain to himself and his reader the everyday cruelties, injustices and inhumanity of modern life.

Lavishly illustrated with the author's colour photographs — the most moving image is of Nepalese toddlers playing in the street with a bottle of Chinese rice wine — this immensely accessible book offers a unique re-interpretation of masculinity. It seeks to prove that to be male does not necessarily mean to be violent and dominating but also sensitive, considerate and, above all else, gentle. In doing so, it offers a ray of hope to an increasingly bleak and vicious society.

## Where did everybody go?

A new reference work on modern Britain without Samantha Fox or John Redwood? Tut-tut, says William Hartston

Richard Branson, Eddie George, the Duchess of York, the Duke of York, Sir Cliff Richard and Jeremy Isaacs. What do they all have in common? Answer: there is not the slightest reference to any of them in the new Cassell *Dictionary of Modern Britain*. The publisher's blurb describes the book as: "A comprehensive A-Z guide to the people, events, issues, controversies and crises that have made the headlines over the past 50 year period." We are told "the dictionary's focus is a broad one", yet neither of those claims survives a cursory look through the headwords or index of personal names. There is Fox, Sir Marcus, but not

Fox, Samantha: Jones, Jack and Jones, Steve, but not Harvey Jones. Sir John: Brown, Gordon, but not Brown, Cedric. I could go on. I shall go on. John Birt and Producer Choice are there, but where are Sir Robin Day and Jeremy Paxman? Even Marmaduke Hussey is absent. There's Ingham, Bernard, but not Ingrams. Richard, despite the nine-line entry for *Private Eye*, and search as you might, you will find no reference to that controversial headline-maker and social scene shifter, Mr Paul Gascoigne.

The dictionary's focus is a narrow one, concentrating primarily on political names and concepts. Sport and entertainment, which form so large a part of many people's experience of modern Britain, play no part. Atherton, Michael and Boycott, Geoffrey have been given out by the editors; Charlton, Bobby and Matthews, Stanley have been sent off. Hopkins, Sir Anthony and Giegadd, Sir John, are left waiting in the wings.

The entries that remain are, it must be acknowledged, generally

Dictionary of Modern Britain  
edited by Joseph and Sagar  
Cassell, £18.99

well written in a succinct and informative style. The writers and editors have also shown admirable restraint in keeping all the entries brief and to the point. Even Margaret Thatcher is allowed fewer than 450 words.

If you want to know the date of the Clapham Rail Crash, you will find it under 'Clapham Rail Crash'; if you need to what all the fuss is over the Social Chapter, you have only to look up 'Social Chapter' and follow the cross references to 'Maastricht', 'Conservative', 'opting out' and 'social charter'. If you need to find out what crime, other than high treason, still warrants the death penalty, it's there under 'Capital Punishment'. Not all the headwords, however, are quite so well chosen. In any dictionary or

encyclopedia in which the entries are arranged alphabetically rather than thematically, the headwords should be things people are likely to look up. But who would ever head directly towards 'meo in grey suits' or 'put up or shut up'?

The lack of a general index makes some things hard to find. Having failed to find Smith, Andreas Whitlam siding alongside Smiths, Ian, John, T Dan and Tim, I was distressed to find no entry at all for 'Independent, The'. There's no entry for 'Times, The' either, though you will find both of them mentioned in a brief entry for 'Broadsheets'.

Criticising a book for what it omits is, of course, not playing fair, but criteria for inclusion seem inconsistent. There are entries to be found under 'Beast of Bolsover' and 'Skinner, Dennis', but remarkably no entry of his own for Redwood, John. There is an entry for 'Vulcan', but only the RAF jet-powered bomber. One is left with the suspicion that the Cassell *Dictionary of Modern Britain* has been

compiled, like far too many modern reference works, primarily by extracting from an all-encompassing database those items relevant to a specific theme. That suspicion is heightened when one compares this work with the Cassell *Dictionary of Modern Politics* (now available in paperback, £9.99). Where headwords coincide, the entries are often identical. Surely the entry on H-Bomb in a dictionary of modern Britain ought not to be word for word the same as the entry in a dictionary of modern politics.

With no room in modern Britain for science (where are Roger Penrose and Richard Dawkins?), invention (Sir Clive Sinclair and Christopher Cockerell?), entrepreneurial management (Michael Edwards and James Goldsmith?) or Monty Python's Flying Circus, what remains is all rather dull and worthy. This is not a dictionary of the modern Britain we all know and love.

But, to end on a positive note, there's no mention of Jeffrey Archer either.

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William Boyd, THE TIMES

THE POLISH OFFICER

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# The screech marks of history

A study of the last five million years reveals a recurring pattern of settled humanity and galactic upheaval. John Gribbin reports

The idea that climatic changes played a major part in human evolution, not so much forcing our ancestors out of the trees as killing the trees and leaving our ancestors behind, is now so familiar and well established that it comes as a surprise to find a writer of Colin Tudge's pedigree using it as the foundation stone for a new book. But then, as *The Day Before Yesterday* makes clear, Tudge isn't really interested in human beings. What he cares about are non-human mammals, and the role of human beings in an environmental pressure on other mammals. Not so much five million years of human history, as five million years of the impact of humankind on other species.

Apart from the relatively gentle processes of climatic change, it is now clear that the pattern of evolution on earth has been shaped by several major catastrophes, some possibly caused by the impact of objects from space, which on five occasions have wiped out more than 50 per cent of all species alive at the time. Our activities are now beginning to rival those natural catastrophes, and as Tudge puts it, the future evolution of living things on Earth will "depend very much on our actions over the next few hundred years."

This is dramatic, attention grabbing stuff. Unfortunately, the style and presentation of the

**The Day Before Yesterday: Five million years of human history** by Colin Tudge  
Cape, £18.99

book don't do justice to the drama of its contents. Coming from a background in journalism, Tudge is happy to tackle any subject, and provides us with a workmanlike account of the events which shaped the Earth and its environment in the eons leading up to the five million years that are his special interest. But this geological and geophysical background is no more than workmanlike, and is not always entirely accurate (as in the discussion of the greenhouse effect). This would matter less if it were not inevitable that the introductory material should come first. The book only really comes alive in Chapter four, when we learn from Tudge the zoologist (who loves his subject) how many other species are sharing the planet with us, discover the advantages of being big or small, and meet the mammals.

Even so, the casual reader still has one hurdle to overcome. In his days as features editor of *New Scientist*, Tudge would rightly rap contributors (myself included) over the knuckles for

lapsing into the passive, and for using jargon or longer than necessary words. Here, his style sometimes verges on the pompous, dotted with the odd "hence" and containing such gruesome constructions as "of particular relevance to Britain is the behaviour of the Gulf Stream" and "we may legitimately doubt whether the forest-bound common ancestors would have made the transition to the ground if...". It almost looks as if the text was completed in a rush - particularly unfortunate since Tudge's publishers make much of the fact that each of his previous two books was shortlisted for the Science Book Prize. By his own high standards, this is not Tudge at his best.

By the standards of most books about science for non-scientists, though, it is still pretty good stuff. His discussion of the importance of metabolic rates and the role of grass in determining the kinds of creatures that live on Earth is utterly absorbing, as are many other vignettes, and although the story of human origins is familiar, he tells it well, adding spice to the mix with some ideas which, he acknowledges, are not yet fully established and must technically be regarded as speculation.

The underlying theme is the role of what is known as "punctuated equilibrium in evolution" - the idea that while the world exists in a settled state, species

change little, becoming slowly more fitted to the prevailing environment, but that when an upheaval occurs (an ice age, or meteoric impact) many species die and the survivors diversify to fill the newly available ecological niches. None of this, of course, is in any sense anti-Darwinian; both the periods of stasis and the periods of rapid change following a disaster exactly follow the rules of Darwinian evolution by natural selection. Disasters have been the punctuation marks of evolution, and now we are both the latest of these marks and one of

the players in the evolutionary game. Unlike some doomsmongers, Tudge sees this human influence as having already played a part in changing the pattern of life on earth by the end of the latest Ice Age, and blames our ancestors for the huge numbers of creatures that disappeared all over the world in the late Pleistocene (the geological epoch which ended about 10,000 years ago), as well as for the way species continue to die *en masse* today.

The obligatory discourse on "what to do" makes for a downbeat ending, and Tudge misses a trick in his discussion of the future of human evolution by neglecting to speculate about the possibilities of genetic engineering. He also short-changes his readers (their appetites whetted by his enthusiasm) by not providing them with a guide to further reading. This is Tudge in cruise mode, using auto-pilot to turn out a rather nice book with the minimum of effort. The irritating thing is that had he made the effort it could have been excellent. It might even have got him to the top of that Science Book Prize shortlist.



Social climbing: Darwinian evolution, as seen by Punch, 1882

All you need to know about the books you meant to read



This week:

**ANNA KARENINA (1877)**  
by Leo Tolstoy

**Plot:** A great domestic epic that seeks to answer questions of profound and childish simplicity: "How should one live?" "What must we be and do?" The story is sculpted from three marriages, but focuses on Anna, bored and beautiful, married to a stuffy bureaucratic official, who meets the virile Vronsky, an officer and a gentleman, more or less. He chases her home to St Petersburg. They ignite into an affair. Karenin, humiliated but powerless, eventually grants a divorce but keeps his son. Anna and Vronsky expelled from perfumed society, lead an increasingly artificial life. Having thrown off the roles of mother and wife, Anna is restricted to being a self-absorbed mistress. It is not enough; she kills herself. Vronsky, filled with remorse, pushes off to war.

**Theme:** Men and women must live by the natural laws of marriage and truth. Anna's adultery condemns her to neurotic narcissism. Another character's search for spiritual "answers" is rewarded and his soul resurrected.

**Style:** Tolstoy's approach to writing is another dimension of his moral universe: "The only possible order for the only possible words."

**Chief strengths:** Isaiah Berlin points out that Tolstoy's empirical response to the world's richness is at odds with his desire for rigid rules and regulations. No matter how relentlessly the author strives to punish Anna, she remains uniquely vibrant and loveable.

**Chief weakness:** Anna Akhmatova and D.H. Lawrence both objected to Tolstoy's use of Anna's sexuality as an instrument of torture, rather than as a mode of self-expression.

**What they thought of it then:** The Russian reading public were enthralled but the liberal critics disliked the reactionary slant. Dostoevsky thought it "old fashioned".

**What we think of it now:** Much admired even though the entire thrust of the novel could not be less PC. Modern critics pay close attention to the medium but avoid the rebarbative message.

**Responsible for:** *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, Lawrence's reworking of the eternal triangle in terms of the twin English obsessions with sex and class. Also the 1930s film, where Garbo smouldered in furs (again).

## Apparitions can be deceptive

Italian peasants, Catholicism, visionaries, land wars, a family in decline, a search for roots... Harriet Paterson reads a first novel steeped in cliché

Novelists should perhaps not be judged by their day job, but as editor of the *Catholic Herald*, Cristina Odore might be expected to treat religion as a slightly more substantial matter than she does in this, her first book. Instead she gives us a heroine who wears white dresses and has daily conversations with the Virgin Mary. Visionaries can make fascinating material, but the meaning of Santarella's experience is never explored; she doesn't really say anything at all,

just wafts in and out surrounded by light, looking rapt and leaving a backwash of embarrassing prose behind her: "the figure, bright against the sky, continued to move away from his side. Till she glowed in the horizon like the first star." This purple piety is exactly the kind of thing that gives Catholicism a bad name, and it doesn't do much for the novel either. Structurally it leads to a spurious secondary plot as the villagers start planning to build a Marian shrine, a miracle cen-

**The Shrine**  
by Cristina Odore  
Weidenfeld, £14.99

tre to attract pilgrims and therefore cashflow: purity and innocence exploited by material greed and so on. This could perhaps work as a comedy of manners if it were all satire, but Santarella is clearly meant to be the Real Thing and is there-

fore not funny. Meanwhile the main weight of the plot lies with the gradual decline of the Ferrari family, the local bigwigs. The father dies, leaving a son and daughter who are faced with selling the family house and lands to pay his debts. Cristina Odore tries her hand at a bit of Marcel Pagnol community rivalry intrigue about who gets the land, but the sale happens too soon for one to have become involved with any of the interested parties.

Apart from this, nothing much happens to the brother or the sister for the rest of the book; Francesco is in a bitter marriage to a wife back in England, a purely token character, and is wondering whether to come back to his "roots" in the village. Alma finishes one affair with a man she doesn't love and starts another which also fails to go anywhere. The narrative slides past on well-oiled clichés, people weeping over with satisfaction or falling into hushed anticipation, whilst telling

each other, "I want an end to this restlessness." But the real problem is that the author doesn't seem to have decided what sort of book this is. Alma's love life and Francesco's existential angst are pitched seriously enough, with a point somewhere about the confusion and severance from traditional values of the thirty-ish generation in Italy. But the Italian colour is standard, nothing you couldn't piece together from a couple of healthy preconceptions and the menu of an SW7 trattoria.



## Paperbacks

Reviewed by Emma Hagestadt and Christopher Hirst



**Queen Mother** by Penelope Mortimer (Deutsch, £9.99)

The House of Windsor has a habit of picking English roses, only to watch them wither in the sun. After a painful honeymoon, followed by a well-publicised Australian tour without the new-born, Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon dedicated her life to shaping her reluctant husband into something resembling a king. Worth reading, if only for Mortimer's evocation of Edwardian married life.



**Boyfriends and Girlfriends** by Douglas Dunn (Faber, £5.99)

Douglas Dunn's short stories are the kind best read out loud. Conspiratorial in tone, precise in expression, his Scottish voices ring proudly through the cramped towns and damp gardens of small-town respectability: Mrs Boyd-Porteous, who takes in convent girls for the summer, the local haulier Mooty Gault who fixes houses and people. They leave you wanting more.



**Present Laughter: An Anthology of Comic Writing** ed. by Malcolm Bradbury (Phoenix, £9.09)

Uninspiring selection of post-war comic writing but handy for students attending a course on the subject (in East Anglia perhaps). There are set-texts from Evelyn Waugh, Angus Wilson and Muriel Spark; but if you're looking for a good laugh, it's hard to believe you'll find it in the likes of Jorge Luis Borges, Margaret Atwood or Milan Kundera.



**Mimi's Ghost** by Tim Parks (Minerva, £6.99)

Morris finds Paola revolting. Sprawled across the bed, nipples poking through her silk night-ette "like Cadbury's chocolate buttons", she destroys the lines of his brand new luxury condo. He shouldn't have married her, and he definitely shouldn't have murdered her sister, Mimi, with whose ghost he speaks daily on his car phone. A hilarious sequel to *Cara Massimina*.



**Paris Interzone** by James Campbell (Minerva, £7.99)

Beginning with Richard Wright's arrival in Paris shortly after the war, Campbell chronicles that other generation of expatriates on the Left Bank. Some black American writers, like Chester Himes, blossomed there; others, like Wright, may have dried up; but the most notorious black American novel of the time was written by a white Parisian, Boris Vian.

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## The Road to Margate Pier (with Vince, Vic, Lenny and Ray)

A new novel by the author of *Waterland* is a bitty but lifelike tribute to human variety. By Hugo Barnacle

Last Orders by Graham Swift, Picador, £15.99

Jack Dodds, family butcher, leaves instructions that his ashes should be scattered off Margate Pier. Three friends and his adopted son Vince drive down from Bermondsey to do the job. They get stuck in traffic at New Cross. Ray, Jack's old Desert Rat pal, thinks: "We ought to have a flashing sign up: ASHES."

They are, in fact, pretty conspicuous as it is. Vince, who refused to follow Jack into the meat business, trained as a mechanic in the army and is now a used-car dealer, so the excursion is taking place aboard the pride of his stock, a vast royal blue Mercedes 380SEL with whitewall tyres.

Lenny Tate, in the back with Ray, makes a point of repeating, "Every car's the same in a snarl-up, ain't it?" This is to annoy Vince because Vince knocked up Lenny's daughter Sally in 1964. Lenny also makes a point of asking after Vince's daughter because he knows Vince has sold her to an Arab and feels bad about it. (The deal seems to be that the Arab can keep her as

long as he keeps buying cars.) Lenny is another Desert Rat, but he was in the artillery and didn't know Ray and Jack then. He's a retired fruit-and-veg man and a failed pugilist: "Gunner Tate, middleweight. Always pissed, always late."

Vic Tucker, sitting in front, is the local undertaker. His shop faces Jack's across the high street. "Tucker and Sons" – sounds all right, don't it, Vince? – needles Lenny. When a row looms, which is often, Vic is the diplomat, changing the subject, suggesting lunch or a detour to the Chatham naval memorial where his friends from the Atlantic convoys are listed. The last is a masterstroke as it lets everyone get annoyed with Vic instead of each other, and you can't get very annoyed with Vic. This is partly his gentle character, partly his job. On the destroyer he was put in charge of sea burials and they said, "You want to keep in with Tucker," because in a sense he was Death. Landlubbers are just as superstitious.

Graham Swift's novel is about

death and chance. Ray, who is small, was big Jack's lucky charm in the desert, or so Jack said. Ray is also a successful gambler on horses, though he puts it down to studying figures: "If you want to beat the book-keeper, keep a book." Baby Vince was the freak survivor of the V-1 that killed his parents. Jack's wife Amy took him in because their own daughter June, by mischance, was born with a severe mental handicap and had to be put in a home.

Amy won't join the outing as it's her day for visiting June, something Jack never did. Margate Pier, it turns out, was the last place they ever discussed the matter, back in 1939, so perhaps Jack wanted to make amends, but it's too late.

Ray tells most of the story, though the others chip in with short chapters. Nothing much happens, except that we learn about these people's interconnections, which become more complex than a mere summary would imply. It is all very bitty and incomplete in a lifelike, rather intriguing way, at least until we hear how Ray cleared

the dying Jack's debts by backing a 33-1 outsider at Doncaster. I think we all know what would happen if you really tried that.

As a rule, Swift is thorough. His descriptions of Kentish towns and countryside are minutely accurate. He even mentions that the car has "custom paintwork" in case some smart-alec reader remembers that Mercedes do not do loud colours like royal blue. He gives us loads of gambler's, butcher's, boxer's and undertaker's lore. However, he makes Vic insist that his trade "won't ever run short of custom." A truism but untrue. The older generation is missing half a million men who were killed in the war, and the shortfall has brought hard times to the funeral business since 1990. Vic would know that.

The novel seems longer than it is, for good and bad reasons. It is elaborate and absorbing but without a real narrative urge or unified structure. Still, Swift succeeds in his main aim, creating just the right kind of amused respect for his characters, and for human variety and mortality.



Ready for my close-up, Mr M: Henri Matisse sketches a suspicious-looking odalisque model (complete with ankle bracelet) in his studio at 1, place Charles Félix, Nice in 1927. Reproduced in 'Pleasuring Painting: Matisse's Feminine Representations' by John Elderfield (Thames & Hudson, £5.95), a brief, fascinating study rescuing Matisse from the charge that he pictured female nudes as grotesque and undifferentiated playthings.

## Shopping with state secrets

The American spy Rick Ames was a gormless drunk whose bungling incompetence was matched only by that of the CIA. By Godfrey Hodgson

Sixty five years ago, the KGB succeeded in recruiting half-a-dozen idealistic young idiots at Cambridge University as secret agents, and we still haven't heard the end of it. At home and abroad, it is taken for granted that the spying of the Cambridge Five constitutes evidence of an incontrovertible nature about the corruption of Britain, or the British secret services, or the ancient universities.

So what are we to make of the CIA spies of the 1980s? There were certainly plenty of them. At the very moment when Ronald Reagan was committing the United States to battle the Evil Empire of communism – which happened also to be the precise moment when the Empire in question was turning out to have no clothes – a steady stream of the CIA's finest was rushing to flog the Free World's espionage crown jewels to the KGB's First Chief Directorate.

In 1980 David Barnett, a 12-year veteran of the CIA's Directorate of Plans, the operational wing of the agency, was convicted of selling out to

the KGB for \$80,000. In 1984, one Karl Koehler, a former Czech spy employed by the CIA, was convicted of selling the documents he translated back to Prague. In 1985, Edward Lee Howard, a senior CIA officer, escaped to Russia after betraying the CIA's best agent inside the Soviet science establishment, Ronald Pelton, of the National Security Agency, was sentenced to life imprisonment for selling electronic eavesdropping secrets.

And then there was Rick Ames. He was actually head of the Soviet section of CIA's counter-intelligence when in 1985 he simply walked into the Soviet embassy with a plastic shopping bag containing six pounds of secret papers. It was, say the authors of this riveting narrative, "the biggest stack of secret documents ever smuggled out of the CIA". Let us hope so, since it was enough to sign the death warrants of a dozen brave Russians who had been spying for the CIA. Some of those he first named escaped; later he named others, but on the basis of Ames's information, at least a dozen Soviet

**Betrayal: the story of Aldrich Ames**  
by Weiner, Johnston and Lewis  
Richard Cohen, £12.99

agents working for the United States were arrested, interrogated and shot in the back of the neck in the basement of the Lubyanka.

What are we to make of this epidemic of treason in the Washington suburbs in "the very years when Ronald Reagan was proclaiming 'morning in America'?" Are we to take it as evidence of the corruption of the society that bred them, of the universities they attended? There is, thankfully, little of the bunkum that Philby and Co. inspired about this well-researched, well-written and thorough account by three correspondents of the *New York Times*.

Certainly, Howard, Ames and their fellow-traitors were not animated by anything so misguided as ideology. They worked strictly for cash. First and

last Ames – the most damaging as well as the most gormless of the bunch – pulled down \$2.7 million. Apparently the KGB, stung by the news that the CIA was buying spies for \$1 million a throw, wanted to show that socialism, too, had temptations to offer.

The light this story sheds on the Central Intelligence Agency is not reassuring for those who count on the Agency to protect the Free World from dark forces. From first to last the Agency displayed a blend of complacency, social snobbery and general dim-wittedness it would be hard to match, even in so-called intelligence agencies elsewhere.

Rick Ames was one of the Agency's own. A WASP of the WASPs from the small-town Middle West, son of an old-line Agency hand. Neither the fact that he drank himself silly most lunchtimes nor his inability to get through his work prevented him being moved from one sensitive job to another. Once you were one of the boys, you could only move sideways not down or out.

When he suddenly paid more than half a million in cash for a house and

splashed out on a Jaguar, nobody paid much attention. One young investigator who did try to find where the money came from was surprised to learn that the CIA had always been run by a moneyed elite. There were plenty of Jaguars in the parking lot, it was explained to him, owned by CIA people with trust funds.

When, after nine years in which Ames had drunkenly stolen their most deadly secrets from under their noses, he was finally caught, it was by the despised flatfoots of the FBI, not by the band of brothers at the Agency.

In the lobby at the Agency's headquarters at Langley, Virginia, there is a text from the Gospel according to St. John: "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." But in all this comic tale of greed, treason and stumbling incompetence, there is no suggestion that the Agency showed any great interest in acquiring reliable information about the real world. It was far too busy playing the KGB at its own game.

### Audiobooks



**Quartered Safe Out Here**  
read by George MacDonald Fraser  
**The Way Ahead**  
read by John Ottavino

Books read by their own author Dean can be a horror or delight. George MacDonald Fraser, now close on 70, reads his experiences of the Burma campaign in a voice as mellifluous as vintage port, and with matchless timing. *Quartered Safe Out Here* (15th Audio Books, 3hrs 15 mins, £41.71) is funny, tragic and full of suspense, and does full justice to the caustic and courageous Cambrians with whom Fraser served.

Microsoft wunderkind Bill Gates speaks in a high nasal drawl, and his vocal contribution to his *The Way Ahead* (Penguin, 3 hrs, £7.99) is wisely limited to a few quotes. I don't think I'd have ever settled down actually to read this vision of the digital future, but Ottavino's intelligent rendering of this abridged version provides a useful summary of what's in store.

Christina Hardymont



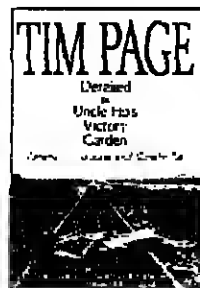
**Avowed Intent** by Lord Longford  
(Warner, £7.99)

This is an engagingly chatty autobiography, far more readable than the monstrous tomes of most politicians. Born in 1905 and still vigorous, Longford has a circle of acquaintance – from Evelyn Waugh to Dennis Nilsen – that is surely unmatched. There is much unconscious humour. Of his study in *Humility*, he notes: "Anyone seriously interested in humility would benefit from reading my little book."



**POPism** by Andy Warhol and Pat Hackett (Pimlico, £10.00)

First out in 1981, this is an extended gossip by Andy (the art form in which he truly excelled) about his 1960s glory days. His memory is phenomenal, but some facts are dubious: did Jagger really meet Chrissie Shrimpton when cleaning house for her? Few books capture the thrill of the time more successfully, but the party ends literally with a bang: "She moved in closer, fired again, and I felt horrible pain..."



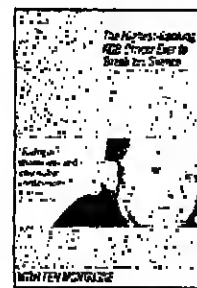
**Derailed** by Tim Page (Touchstone, £7.99)

This impressionistic account of a lensman's return to Nam is interwoven with dream-like recollections of conflict. Memories of horrific injuries and the "magic, glamorous edge" of war merge with vivid, pell-mell observation of the present (lavatories and dope are recurring themes). Intense, funny, sometimes plain loopy, this book merits a place alongside Herri's *Dispatches*.



**An Anthropologist on Mars** by Oliver Sacks (Picador, £6.99)

In his latest report from the cortical front-line, Sacks gently probes the extraordinary mental afflictions, by accident or disease, of seven individuals. They include a hippie perpetually stuck in the past, a practising surgeon with Tourette's Syndrome and Stephen Wiltshire, the autistic artist. These sympathetic but unpatronising "explorations of metamorphosis" are revealing celebrations of the mind's mysterious potential.



**Spymaster** by Oleg Kalugin (Smith Gryphon, £7.99)

A dark humour pervades Kalugin's story of 32 years in the KGB (he rose to be Chief of Counter-Intelligence). Though riddled by corruption, the KGB pulled off some striking successes, in particular the decoding of around one million US Navy messages in the Seventies. One of Kalugin's few regrets arises from his involvement in the murder of Georgi Markov – the only "wet job" with which he was associated.

### Who's reading whom?

Wine writer Andrew Barr admires Theodore Zeldin's 'An Intimate History of Humanity' (Mnerva)

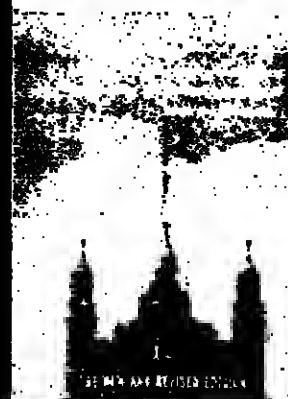


(first came across this book in a restaurant in the Old Brompton Road. They had it on sale because they thought people interested in food should also be interested in history – an enlightenment that Zeldin would share. This is a brave book for a historian to write. Historians, of all people, prefer to deal with what they know and Zeldin pushes himself beyond what he knows to breach his own central thesis: that people lead their lives within limited and limiting social and cultural parameters because new experiences force them to change, but in ways they cannot always control and anticipate.

## THE BOOK THAT ROCKED THE ESTABLISHMENT

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### The State We're In





## gardening

# Peace of mind comes with cabbages and cordon pears

For order and fecundity, a traditional kitchen garden is hard to beat. By Anna Pavord



John Thallon, head gardener, and his team at Benington Hall near York, tend to the tunnel grown from eight different sorts of pear

Photograph: Steve Forrest/Gazelle

A traditional kitchen garden, walled round with stone or brick, is an oasis of order in a chaotic world. Ruler-straight paths divide the space into neat plots. Carefully trained fruit trees spread their arms over a sunny wall or make espaliered screens along the edges of the vegetable patches. Onions and potatoes, parsnips and peas grow in parallel lines, running from north to south to catch the best of the weather.

When you walk through a door into one of these private, peaceful, productive places, you shed cares like a slow worm sloughing its skin. You can keep yoga. Peace of mind for me comes with cabbages and cordon pears. Shelter and fecundity are the keystones of a walled kitchen garden (and an owner who doesn't look too keenly at the bottom line of his garden accounts – no one pretends these places are anything but labour intensive).

The best have lean-to greenhouses, often on the south wall, where they shelter crops of nectarines and peaches, tomatoes and peppers. Wherever room can be found, there are old clay pots filled with geraniums and clivias. These greenhouses are emphatically *not* spaces for living, in the manner of modern conservatories. They are forcing houses, larders, growing places, though they provide welcome shelter in winter and early spring when gardeners can loiter, sowing seeds and dreaming of harvests to come.

Although the traditional kitchen garden is primarily a place to produce food, flowers are rarely banished entirely. Often there are box-

edged beds running under the walls for picking borders of roses, larkspur, scabious and everlasting flowers such as statice and helichrysum. Thick plantings of tulips provide colour and flowers to cut for the house earlier in the year.

Sometimes a wide central path is arched over with apples or pears grown as cordons or espaliers, with wide herbaceous borders planted in great swathes under them. Sometimes there are swags of rambling roses strung along rope fixed to posts alongside a path, with thick ribbons of sweet-smelling pinks underneath.

Garaged fruit trees, usually trained as cordons, espaliers or fans, are a feature of most old kitchen gardens. They make living screens round vegetable plots with their outstretched, lichen-covered branches. Once the framework is securely established, they are easy to prune to shape each summer. Fan-trained greengages, peaches and apricots get the warmest walls.

Crops may be sown according to a traditional rotation: with members of the onion family in one big plot, brassicas in another, legumes in a third and potatoes together with other root vegetables in the fourth. But some gardeners feel there are disadvantages in grouping similar crops together, as they tend to pass diseases from one to the other more easily.

Climbing peas and beans are occasionally grown over bowered seats, or trained up hazel poles that have been bowed over to make a tunnel down a central path. If you want to copy this idea, use only freshly cut "green" hazel, which will bend smoothly without snapping. To span

a 4ft path, you will need three poles to make a single arch, one pole stuck either side of the path, the third lashed to them at either end to arch over the top. When all the hoops are in place, you can connect them lengthways with more hazel poles laid horizontally. This makes a very strong, firm structure.

Because running a traditional walled kitchen garden is rather like mulching with £5 notes, they are much thinner on the ground than they used to be. Even the National Trust, with its pockets full of splendid country houses, has not run a proper, working kitchen garden at any of them. Instead, walled gardens have been turned into car-parks and picnic areas.

The Trust decided it wanted to fill this obvious gap and drew up a short list of properties where they might restore a kitchen garden. Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire, was one possibility; 23 gardeners once worked in the seven-acre kitchen garden there. A good kitchen garden also existed until the fifties at Attingham Park in Shropshire, while at Tanton Park in Cheshire there was probably the Trust's best collection of greenhouses, frames and fruit pits.

In the end, Benington Hall, just north of York, was the chosen site, thanks to a generous bequest, which meant that an extra gardener could be taken on there to work solely in the kitchen garden. This lies to the east of the house and covers at least an acre and a half, bounded by brick walls, in places up to 13ft high. Work started in earnest in the autumn and, already, head gardener John Thallon and his team have

laid out wide paths, planted nearly 3,000 box bushes to edge the beds, and dug out the old dipping pond at the centre of the garden.

"It was about 35ft deep, 18th-century, but was filled in just before the Trust took over the property when Lady Chesterfield's dog fell in it and drowned," explained Mr Thallon, who has spent 17 years at Benington, the last four of them as head gardener. The pond sits half-way along the handsome tunnel of eight different sorts of pear which runs across the centre of the garden. The trees are more than a hundred years old, but spurs are still sprouting vigorously.

The pear tunnel and the vines in the newly restored lean-to greenhouse are the only features that remain from the kitchen garden as it was in its heyday. The vines, 'Foster's Seedling' and 'Lady Downe's Seedling' were both raised by Thomas Foster, head gardener at Benington for nearly 40 years from 1827. Fruit, vegetables and dahlias were his specialties and he raised the vines in 1835 by crossing 'Black Morocco' with 'White Sweetwater'. His own seedling produced an early white grape, 'Lady Downe's Seedling' is black and fruits late.

The National Trust's plan for Benington shows long herbaceous borders under the pear tunnel, fan-trained cherries and plums on one wall, fan-trained pears and quince on another and two lean-to potting sheds built against the north wall, with borders of soft fruit in between. Long hedges of lavender sweep down the paths to the east and west and there are beds of rhubarb, asparagus, globe artichokes and –

in Foster's memory – dahlias. There will also be big cutting borders of annual flowers.

The soil, says John Thallon, is amazingly good and you can tell by the mountainous size of his muck and compost heaps that he intends to keep it that way. Restoration work on the brick walls has been going on steadily for years and is now complete. The south-facing wall is hollow, and was once heated by 17 fires, each with a flue and chimney pot sticking out of the top of the wall. Interconnecting pipes provided heat to protect early-flowering peaches and nectarines against frost and to extend the ripening period.

These have not been restored, though Mr Thallon has saved some of the exceptionally long thin bricks that were used to bridge over the flues. One of the 13 gardeners that still worked at Benington in Lady Chesterfield's day told him how they used to shovel hot ashes from the greenhouse boiler into the two flues that still remained. The rest had already been bricked up.

For £30 you can donate a fan-trained peach or fig for Benington's kitchen garden; £25 would buy a cherry or plum; £20 a 6ft length of lavender hedge; £10 a Muscat grape vine. Donations can be sent to the Property Manager at Benington Hall, Shipton by Benington, York YO6 1DD (01904 470666). The garden will be open from 30 March, Sat-Wed (11am-5pm); admission £3 (£4.50 includes admission to house).



## CUTTINGS

The Royal Horticultural Society will be holding the first flower show of its calendar this Tuesday and Wednesday at the Royal Horticultural Halls, Vincent Square, London SW1. Look for hellebores, snowdrops and aconites (which have been blooming in my garden for the past two weeks). Competitions are

held at all the RHS's Westminster shows. This week, ornamental plants vie for the judges' attention. The show is open Tues (11am-7pm), admission £5, and Weds (10am-5pm), £3.

An SOS call came this week from a student at Edinburgh, returning to her flat after the holidays. Her weeping fig (*Ficus benjamina*) was shedding its clothing faster than the Chippenhams. What should she do? The fig in question often does lose leaves in winter. As it is one of the leafiest of indoor plants, this does not necessarily leave it looking bare. Leaf loss is made

worse, though, if the plant does not have enough light. If this student's waking hours match those of our tribe, I would guess the curtains in her room probably aren't drawn back much before midday, and it is dark by 4pm. More light (but not direct sunlight) may help. In winter the plant should not need much water, but the three-week break may have made it sick. Water, if the compost is dry, adding in some liquid feed. Mist over the leaves is useful during the winter. It keeps the atmosphere immediately round the plant humid, which it likes, without drowning the roots.

## It may be winter for us, but it is high summer for orchids, and growers are tempting would-be buyers into their nurseries

By Clare Stewart

In the depths of winter when the average gardener is kept indoors feeding off glossy gardening books and planning over-ambitious borders for the summer, orchid enthusiasts are feeling snug. This is high summer for a good number of popular species. Visit an orchid nursery now and be dazzled by the diverse charms of Phalaenopsis, Cymbidium and Odonoglossum – each species spawning thousands of hybrids to send orchid enthusiasts into a flutter.

But however beautiful, orchids do have a PR problem, as their film star reputations for being expensive and difficult to handle can discourage would-be growers. This is a misconception that orchid nurseries are keen to squash. Many top growers are now offering special events and advice days to help overcome orchid inhibitions, as well as to show off their collections.

"Nurseries have to go out of their way because of the myths that surround orchid growing," says Sara Ritterhausen of top growers Burnham Nurseries in Newton Abbot, Devon. The nursery offers free orchid workshops every month. "We have free orchid workshops every month for beginners regular attenders who keep coming back because there is always something different to learn."

On 18 February, for example, Burnham is running a Getting Growing workshop, and on 17 March, a Repotting workshop.

Another medal-winning nursery, McBean's Orchids near Lewes in Sussex, is busy with special events. It has two open weekends planned, on

the 27-28 January, and in February on 24 and 25.

February is a particularly good time to visit McBean's, because of the range of popular orchids, such as the Cymbidium, which can be seen there. These cool growing plants flower from September through to May, lasting up to two months or more in flower depending on the number of flower spikes.

"One of the commonest questions we get is how to get a Cymbidium to reflower the following year," says Liz Johnson. "It is often a matter of the temperature being too warm. We also recommend that the plants go outside in the summer to get more light and to ensure that they get the differential between the day and night temperature which is important."

Another orchid frequently recommended for beginners is the Phalaenopsis, or moth orchid. These are the most popular as house plants,

because they like heat and can cope with drier atmosphere of centrally heated houses.

"They are also the best for beginners because they flower more than once," says Alan Long, from long established growers Mansell & Hatcher in Leeds. "The first flowers can last up to 12 weeks, and then the plant can reflower within three to four months."

Mansell & Hatcher, which offers a range of orchids, but particularly specialises in cool growing Odonoglossum, also runs open weekends with the next on February 9-10, and on 24-25 February, where potting and "sorting out sick plants" will be among the topics.

While a serious passion for orchids can become rather like train spotting for the wealthy, it is also an interest for more modest budgets.

Expect to pay from between £10-£15 for an orchid that is near flowering, less for younger plants. Many specialists offer collections for



Phalaenopsis: one of the easiest to grow BBC Books

such as at Kew, Glasgow and Wisley and on Jersey, the Eric Young Foundation.

A valuable source of information on local orchid societies, nurseries and events is the Orchid Society, which publishes its own magazine and where annual membership costs £10 with a £5 joining fee. And once you are truly launched as an orchid enthusiast, don't forget the RHS Orchid Review, published six times a year with a subscription cost of £24.95.

Burnham Nurseries: 01626 52233; McBeans: 01273 400228; Mansell & Hatcher: 0113 2502016; The Orchid Society (secretary Mrs Betty Arnold): 01483 421423; The Orchid Review: 01308 813803; RHS 0171-834 4333; The Eric Young Orchid Foundation: 01534 861963

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- Golden Tiers - Heart shaped leaf pale to mid-green, margin of yellow. Lavender flowers on tall stalks.
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# Now you see him, one day you won't

By the year 2015 the water vole may have entirely disappeared from the riverbanks of the Thames. By Trevor Lawson

Just before Christmas, a report for the Government recommended that "Ratty", the water vole made famous by his starring role in *The Wind in the Willows*, should be made a priority species for conservation. Although the authors of the report – the UK Biodiversity Strategy – suspected that something was seriously wrong along the river bank, they underestimated the scale of the disaster. New research, to be published later this year, has found that voles may become extinct in the River Thames and its tributaries in fewer than 20 years. Similar rates of decline are predicted for many other parts of Britain, and this month an urgent, nationwide investigation gets under way to save one of Britain's best loved mammals.

Water voles have been in decline for decades. The UK Biodiversity Strategy announced that "a national survey in 1989-90 failed to find signs of voles in 67 per cent of sites where they were previously recorded". Nobody was certain of the cause of the decline because, as the strategy noted, the vole's previously common status had meant that no one had been very interested in studying it.

But last year one of Oxford University's leading zoologists, Dr David Macdonald, went looking for water voles in the River Thames catchment with Rob Strachan (who worked on the 1989-90 survey) and his student Guillermo Barreto. Looking in detail at 140 riverbank sites, they found that the number occupied by voles had fallen from 73 per cent in 1990, to just 24 per cent in 1995. Given this staggering rate of decline, the research team now estimate that the Thames's water voles could be extinct by 2015.

As they looked for voles, the research team also looked for signs of North American mink, which escaped from fur farms in the 1940s and 1950s and is now firmly established in Britain. People have been quick to blame this dark predator for putting the gentlemanly Ratty to death. As expected, Macdonald's team found strong evidence which implicated the mink.

For a start, although sites without mink did have water voles every site with mink had no voles at all. In addition, although the number of sites occupied by voles had been decreasing at the rate of just over two per year over the 35 years to 1990, the losses accelerated to almost 13 sites per year between 1990 and 1995, where mink are known to have increased their range. Where mink populated an area at the start of the year, voles were found to be locally extinct by October.

Despite their alarming findings, the Oxford scientists have not demanded the mink's eradication. They believe that eradication is impossible anyway, but they were also aware that the water vole had started to decline before

## All you need to know about water voles

Latin name: *Arvicola terrestris*  
Distribution: Throughout Europe, but the British form is unique in its fondness for rivers.

Size: Bigger than a domestic hamster, smaller than a brown rat, about 13 inches from nose to tail.

Home: In winter, a tunnel in the riverbank; in a nest of chewed grasses and reeds. In summer, a ball-like nest in the reeds.

Threats: Mink, otters, polecats, foxes, birds of prey. Also floods, which may drown them in their burrows. And of course man, whose eagerness to tidy up river banks destroys their habitat. Do they have webbed feet? No, nor do they have flatish tails, like otters or beavers. In fact, they're not really adapted to water at all. Their oily fur helps, but if they stay in water for too long, they can become waterlogged. Why do we never see them? Because they mainly come out at dawn and dusk, and are otherwise travelling around in the riverbank vegetation. Anglers see them quite often though.

the mink arrived in Britain. So they investigated further, tracking the ecological history of the Thames sites back through to the 1950s, when mink were barely a fur ball on the English landscape.

They found more positive links, not between voles and mink, but between voles and milk production. Woolly jumpers, and barbed wire. Voles were present at only four of the 40 sites intensively grazed by cows and sheep, but at 27 of the 90 sites which had no grazing, a significantly different statistic emerged. Vole decline was also linked to the removal of hedgerows (which have been increasingly replaced with wire fences) and the drainage of wetland.

So, while Macdonald admits that mink-infested habitats are "mortality sinks" into which straying voles quickly disappear, he argues that to blame the mink for the extinction of voles is to confuse the messenger with the message. The root causes of their demise are the riverside agricultural changes which have confined voles to narrow strips of "tightrope" habitat. Precariously balanced therein, they have been easily ousted out by mink, but also by flooding and drought. "The mink might pull the trigger," says Macdonald, "but they did not cock the pistol."

This month Macdonald's team is extending its research nationwide, in the hope of correlating its findings and discovering whether anything can really be done to give the water vole a fighting chance. "Our hope is to find what kind of riverine habitat configuration

is suitable for the farming community, but allows the water vole to live in conjunction with mink," says Macdonald.

Evidence shows that water voles and minks have shared Stodmarsh in Kent and the Tregaron Bog on the Upper Teifi river in Wales for 20 years. In Belarus, in eastern Europe, water voles survive alongside American mink and European mink, as well as otters and polecats. In these places, Macdonald suspects that grassy, well-layered vegetation, extending perhaps tens of yards from the river's edge, allows voles to live in greater densities than the narrow tightrope of habitat which now borders so many British rivers. He says that while living in greater numbers will not spare the voles from mink attacks, the population will be better able to withstand the higher mortality rates which result. In short, voles will only find safety in numbers.

While urgent research to find the right habitat balance gets going, the gradual return of otters and polecats across England and Wales raises other issues for the study team. Otters and polecats were intensively persecuted and eliminated from many areas long before water vole records were kept. So, zoologists are wondering whether the numbers of voles which we think we have lost to the mink was actually artificially high in the first place. Macdonald admits that he does not know what the "natural" density of voles in a riverside habitat with otters and other predators should be.

The team is also wondering whether the return of otters and polecats will dent the mink population by competing with it, and so help the vole. Macdonald, trying to maintain an air of optimism, hopes that it will. "It is likely that the recovery of the higher and heavier otter will drive mink numbers down. And mink diets contain a higher proportion of water voles than those of polecats or otters, so their return should have a lesser impact on voles than the mink. But on the other hand, otters and polecats might not make the voles better off at all, because they are already in such a bad state," he admits.

But whether otter comes to Ratty's rescue or not, the water vole's survival will ultimately depend on the co-operation of the landowners who have already contributed to its demise. The National Rivers Authority is funding the research, and Alistair Driver – the NRA's project manager – says: "The primary objective will be to influence river management practices so that conservation efforts get under way soon in selected areas. If we can revert some of those intensively used river margins to low intensity grazing, or whatever else we find will help the water vole, it might just have a chance."



*Arvicola terrestris* is vanishing from our river banks. Is it the fault of mink, or man?

Photograph: Planet Earth Pictures

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## A little local trouble

A weekly round-up of rural rows

Mink not only find water voles very tasty (see above), they also eat bird's eggs and young chicks. This is why a mink culling experiment by the Government's Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) in Argyll has boosted local populations of rare common terns and common gulls, plus swans and eider ducks. The birds had almost disappeared from Lochs Etive and Feochan due to the predations of the mink, but after mink traps were issued to 300 farmers and fishermen, they are now nesting there happily again. The experiment is going to be extended to 23 other bird colonies around Argyll.

North Yorkshire might seem like a rural idyll to visitors, but the farmers who live there apparently do not see it that way. The National Farmers Union and health authority officials are becoming increasingly alarmed at the high suicide rate – about one a month – among the county's isolated agricultural community. Now everyone involved with the 6,500 farmers in the area, from Government officials to seed merchants, will be sent packs of information on how to spot farmers suffering from depression, and where to refer them for advice.

## For years I harboured evil designs against that electricity pole

When we lived in the Chilterns I was tormented by a single electricity pole, which rose out of the bank above our pond and was the first thing to take the eye of anyone looking down the garden. Bedecked with transformer box, levers and springs, hristling with barbed wire, it severely detracted from the view.

For years I harboured evil designs against this pole. When I asked how much I would have to pay to have it shifted, the answer was "over £1,000".

There the wretched thing stood, firm as a living tree, until the day of our departure; and when we moved to the Cotswolds, our misfortune seemed to travel with us. From the spinney at the end of the garden rose an almost identical villain – and from it the house supply came in via heavy cables hanging low over the lawn. Perhaps worse, a line of poles marched down our fields, spoiling a modest but attractive vista. The only compensation was that we received an annual year-leave payment from the Midlands Electricity Board. Over the years this rose steadily, and by 1995 had reached the dizzy height of £10.85 – a poor recompense for having our air-space crisscrossed by wires.

Imagine my amazement when, last summer, an MEB official arrived and asked if he might remove the whole line, poles, cables and all. I was so startled that I made him repeat the question. He did, explaining that they wanted to "tidy up the system." "Would I mind?"



DUFF HART-DAVIS

I told him he could start tomorrow. The one snag was that the pole in the spinney would have to remain, as it linked us by overhead line to our one neighbour, the other side of the farmyard. But the rest of the system would go, replaced by a subterranean line which would be moled in beneath our upper field.

Fired by this splendid news, we put our own house-supply underground, ourselves digging a trench for the cable along one side of the lawn. We then sat back to await the arrival of superior forces. These advanced with maddening deliberation. As gangs began renewing the main system, the orange plastic caps which temporarily crown each new pole started to shine out like beacons all over the valley. In autumn a squad arrived to replace the pole in the spinney – a job which they did with incredible speed and efficiency, the JCB driver wielding his bucket as precisely as a surgeon's scalpel. The new pole arrived clamped in the jaws of the huge machine, which twiddled it upright and dumped it in the freshly-excavated hole like a pencil.

By then we were eager for

the operation to be completed, but weeks passed with no more action. Then word came that on a certain day water and electricity would be cut off while the mousing-in proceeded.

The day arrived. We stood down a builder who had been working in the house, as he would have been unable to see without electric light. Absolutely nothing happened. No work-gang appeared. The water continued to run, the current to flow.

Next day we heard that work had been postponed until March. Then suddenly, last Monday, another team arrived, this time from a contractor working for the electricity board. The foreman took one look at our spinney pole and said, "We'll get rid of that fellow for you, anyway."

"But it's only just been put there," I said. "It's brand-new."

"It's a mistake," he said. "We don't need it. We can go all the way underground." *Mirabile dictu.* The idea of the pneumatic mole had been abandoned as too expensive, and on Tuesday men took off the turf by hand before excavating a trench with a small digger. "In a couple of weeks" one assured me, "you'll not even see where we've been." It seems too much to hope that in a couple of weeks all artificial obstructions will have vanished from our skyline. But I truly believe they will be gone, at zero expense – and what is more, we will have the bonus of the old poles, which, when cut into seven-foot lengths, make first-class gate-posts.







# The birthplace of the most significant culture in the world: lager

By Simon Calder



Probably the best storyteller in the world: a statue of Hans Christian Andersen looks out over Copenhagen

When you hear the word "culture", you may not automatically reach for the map of Denmark. But Copenhagen was the birthplace of possibly the most significant culture of all.

You find this out on the Carlsberg tour, the ideal place to begin any exploration of the Danish capital. The average lager brewery is rarely a thing of beauty, but Captain JC Jacobsen's is. The place where he began brewing in 1847 is an exotic cocktail, with splashes of a dozen different styles. Italianate, Indian and Russian images assault you as you turn the street corner into Carlsberg Way.

This is the wrong end of town as far as most cultural tourists are concerned. They are more likely to be found aboard the Kronborg, a Baltic ferry reincarnated as a floating photographic gallery and all-round high-brow fun palace. The vessel is berthed diametrically across the city from the waiting area where prospective Carlsberg tourists eye each other uneasily to detect any loutish tendencies.

They need not fret. Captain Jacobsen used his lager fortune to travel the world and assemble a menagerie of earthly wonders in a hitherto sad little suburb of Copenhagen. He did drinkers a favour, too. That the makers of the special Copenhagen '96 beer can be sure it contains precisely 9.6 per cent of alcohol is all thanks to a great cultural leap forward made in 1883 when Professor Emil Hansen was working in the brewery's laboratory. He concocted a strain of yeast so stable that it could be used to make beer of constant, predictable character and strength. Until then, making

beer had been way too multi-cultural, resulting in wide variations in quality and strength. The culture was christened *sacchar musis Carlsbergensis*, and is now used around the world. No patent was ever sought on the yeast; if you are convinced that all lagers taste the same, this could be why.

In general, though, standardisation does not work in Copenhagen. The city invented the pedestrian precinct in 1962, when cars and trams were ejected from the main thoroughfare, Stroget, and a million cobblestones moved in. Yet having set the fashion for cities thronging with shoppers, Copenhagen has bucked the trend for Identikit Euro-shops. Take McDonald's. The city's main dispensary of the Big Mac is located on the walkway, but looks like no other branch of the chain. What it does resemble is a meeting of minds between Ronald McDonald and Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Graceful lines and ambitious angularity enable a fast-food outlet to transcend the commonplace. Like Glasgow - Rennie Mackintosh's home town and Copenhagen's cultural forebear - the city fabric is laced with innovative design.

There is no indication that JC Jacobsen ever went to Scotland, but the brewery is crowded with cultural trophies from his many trips abroad. The first stop on the tour is beneath the twisting Russian dome and beside four stone elephants, one for each of his children. His idea of presenting his offspring with an image of strength was hatched during a visit to India, which is why Carlsberg elephants have small ears. The title of the beer is a con-

junction of the name of his eldest son, Carl, and the fact that the brewery is located on a small hilllock. Berg actually means "mountain", but Denmark has always taken poetic licence with its humble geography. Indeed, fantasy has always been the nation's literary strength - stretching back from Peter Hoeg to the great Dane of literature, Hans Christian Andersen.

A statue of "HC" (as he is reverentially known) looks quizzically across from City Hall Square to the Tivoli Gardens. The master storyteller lies buried beneath a modest tablet of pink granite in the Assistens Cemetery. The tomb, swathed in firs, is hard to find: enter the cemetery beside the adventure playground on Kapelvej, and bear slightly left for 50 yards. Once you have paid your respects, do not be tempted to head back into town immediately. Make the most of having strayed a mile east of the centre, and explore this strange adventure playground of the dead.

Unlike most graveyards, it seems vastly underpopulated. It resembles a sculpture park much more than a cemetery, with weird and wonderful headstones splashed artistically among exotic knarled trees. The only crowds are in the tiny patch reserved for Russian immigrants; ranks of Eastern Orthodox crosses disrupt the cemetery's studied unorthodoxy. The most commanding tomb of all is near by. An owl keeps watch on the remains of Niels Bohr, the Danish nuclear physicist.

Niels Bohr died in the care of Carlsberg. The company rewards the most prominent contempo-

rary Danes with free accommodation for life. Tucked a decent distance away from the business end of the brewery, the company maintains an opulent villa. The most distinguished Danish citizen of the time is invited to see out his or her days there at the expense of Carlsberg. A philosopher, a linguist and an astronomer have all enjoyed gratis accommodation and unlimited free beer. This last characteristic is shared with every employee at the brewery. They are allowed to drink as much as they wish. Back in the city centre, the Workers' Museum demonstrates how working conditions are much more generous now than earlier in the city's history.

The struggle to social democracy (and free beer) is unravelled by the museum, located in a solemn turn-of-the-century townhouse that is typical of the austere architecture pervading the core of Copenhagen. The Workers' Museum contains match reports of various Proletariat and Capitalist fixtures over the years, and places them in terms of the social fabric with relics such as instructions for making matchboxes and an educational film explaining how to use a self-service supermarket.

The theme of civic development is taken up in the Round Tower, the city's dominant medieval structure. It was built 300 years ago as the Royal Observatory (a function it still fulfils - the oldest to do so in Europe). It has since become a tourist attraction and, latterly, gallery. The spiral walkway leading to the top of this 111ft cylinder bears photographic evidence of the past century. Each year from 1896 to 1995 is represented by a single image. The 100

monochrome prints veer between intense joy and agonising bitterness, but with a definite trend towards civic division. The organisers of Copenhagen '96 are hoping that the event will bring the city together, and return it to the state of municipal jollity depicted in the beer-swilling days of the 1902 photograph. Then, a bottle of Tuborg cost one-ninth of a krona - just over a penny.

Not any more, it doesn't. The price in most pubs is around £2.50, so you had better make the most of the unlimited beer awaiting you at the end of the brewery tour. The fact that tourists are treated as generously as the workers is just one of the surprises your tour guide reveals over a drink. The next is that apparent arch-rival Tuborg is actually part of the Carlsberg group. Indeed, the brewery that gave its name to the Tuborg dock in the north of Copenhagen was closed down permanently a fortnight ago. Stranger of all is the discovery that Carlsberg beer, allegedly the preferred tipple of Danish women, is not made in Copenhagen at all - but in Northampton.

Fortunately, the British are sending much more to the Danish capital this year than insipid lager. Europe's cultural premier league, including the Kirov Ballet from St Petersburg, will be rubbing leotards with Philip Glass and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Between performances they should all head along for enlightenment at Carlsberg, probably the best lager tour in the world.

The Carlsberg tour is free; just turn up at the brewery at 11am or 2pm from Monday to Friday.

## When your goggles go pop and you're crying in the wind

### Snow's Up

By Chris Gill

So there I am on a Swiss glacier at more than 3,000m on a fiercely cold December day - about -15C. I'm wearing goggles, not because it's snowing but because the cold wind makes my eyes water if I stick to sunglasses. I decide I need to rearrange my headgear to combat the wind, and reach behind my head to undo the clip on the strap of my goggles. "Pop."

Oh dear: that was not the sound of the clip unclipping - it was the sound of the clip fragmenting. The means of securing the goggles to my head is in pieces; suddenly, the goggles, purchased last January, are useless. And I am literally reduced to tears.

I wish I could say the offending goggles have gone to meet their maker. Perhaps in time I'll track down the manufacturer and find a way to get the vital clip replaced. Perhaps if more faulty ski equipment went to meet its maker when it fell apart, we might get less sub-standard ski equipment on the market. And what a good thing that would be.

I don't have much complaint with the major bits of equipment that skiing depends on. Indestructible skis would be nice, but I can imagine the problems in manufacturing them. Boots, in my experience, go on for as long as you wish them to go on. Bindings, as far as I'm aware, just work. I do have complaints about clothes, but they're not so much to do with durability as function.

It's the bits and pieces that drive me crazy: the knitted hats that lose their elasticity and no longer stay put on my head; the gloves that develop holes in the first finger or thumb after repeated contact with skis for a couple of weeks; and the goggles that, one way or another, fall apart

when you need them most, in low temperatures.

I'll concede that I'm tight-fisted when it comes to gloves - largely because I have a habit of leaving them on planes, and like to limit my losses. But last season, finding that my current cheapo pair turned to sponges in wet snow, I upgraded to a waterproof Gore-Tex/leather pair. They worked fine, but after maybe four weeks' use are falling apart along the seams of both thumbs. Snow & Rock's catalogue has three brands of Gore-Tex gloves at £89, £45 and £39 - that's the pair for me.

But the goggles that I have trouble with, let me emphasise, are not cheapo items of indeterminate origin. The ones that failed in Switzerland are a well-known brand (Scott), and cost £30 in California - they'd cost more in Europe. The year-old ones they replaced - they developed a split in the lens and I couldn't get a replacement - were Uvex, and I guess cost much the same. The latest of my annual purchases are Oakley, a real cool name my fashion adviser tells me. Yours for £60 in Tignes, should you want some.

These new goggles have no clip, so at least that's one form of failure ruled out, even if they are more awkward to put on without disturbing my carefully arranged head insulation. But I note a warning on the box that the lenses are not designed to withstand impact - so I'll have to be careful not to bang my head against too many glaciers, or brick walls.

### Snow reports

High pressure over Eastern and northern Europe has built up over the last two weeks, producing clear skies and a mild southerly airflow, first in Austria and then in the rest of the Alps.

Ski Sunday viewers last weekend will have seen the bare mountainsides flanking the artificial snow on the racetrack at Kitzbühel, and this weekend's World Cup downhill race in Switzerland has been moved from Wengen to Veysonnaz, which has snowmaking facilities. Although there are reports

of a little fresh snow at altitude in some Italian resorts, in general skiing conditions have gently deteriorated, particularly at low altitude.

In the northern French Alps, where this report is being prepared, the valleys are depressingly green and spring-like; some of the lower runs are extremely icy and one or two of the directly south-facing ones are bare. But higher up there is good skiing to be had in resorts with enough snow to ride out the mild spell. The runs above Avoriaz, for example, have been very enjoyable.

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## LAST RESORT Christiania Freestate, Copenhagen By David Sandhu

While the rest of the Danish capital basks in its official European Capital of Culture status, the 1,000 residents of the Christiania Freestate also have something to party about. Christiania, an 84-acre commune near the centre of Copenhagen, celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Founded when disaffected hippies broke into an abandoned military barracks, settling in an attempt to create an alternative society, it has survived repeated action by the authorities to remove the "freaks".

Take the Number 8 bus to Prinsessegade to see this social experiment. Christiania has a reputation as a haven for hard drugs and criminal activity. This is unfair. Stroll around and you'll find chess, craft shops galore, the finest vegetarian food in Denmark and even a village post office. After dark the atmosphere changes. Bonfires are lit, sound systems blast out booming techno, and hash dealers on the aptly named Pusherstreet tout for business. The mood, though, remains friendly, particularly around the Musikopen area, the nation's best music venue. Although its future is not secure, residents are deter-

mined to prove their worth. This Christmas, for example, over 2,000 meals were served to the city's poor. As a resident said: "In 1971, our ideas must have seemed radical, but now? Green politics, alternative

energies, herbal medicine, vegetarianism, even tolerance of soft drugs - that's mainstream, not underground." Go figure it out for yourself. Christiania Centre: 00 45 32 95 65 07.

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# Wanted: adventurous, ambitious travel plans

Award-winning travel writer William Dalrymple explains how you can win £25,000 for the trip of a lifetime

On his journey to Oxiana in the mid-1930s, Robert Byron – arguably one of the greatest travel writers this century – dreamt of setting up a prize for the observant and innovative independent traveller. "I wish I were rich enough to endow a prize for the sensible traveller", he wrote in his diary in May 1934 while sitting in a caravanserai in central Afghanistan. "I would give £10,000 for the first man to cover Marco Polo's outward route reading three fresh books a week, and another £10,000 if he drinks a bottle of wine a day as well."

Torpedoed in 1942, Robert Byron was never able to set up his prize, but I like to think that he would recognise the Heineken Export/Independent prize as the modern equivalent of the sort of scheme he was planning. Unlike Robert Byron's scheme, we are not demanding that people read three books a week, nor even that they drink a can of Heineken Export every day. What we are looking for is the most original, best planned, most ambitious and adventurous travel idea from someone aged between 18 and 35 that comes before me and my fellow judges: Simon Calder, Jennifer Cox of Lonely Planet, Sarah Garland of STA Travel and Richard Evans of Heineken.

The "Wildest Dream" prize is £5,000 more than Byron envisaged – we've got £25,000 to give away – and the judges are reserving the right to distribute it as we see fit. We may give it all to one breathtaking dream; we may divide it between five or six front-runners. One way or another this is a very exciting opportunity for the hundreds of potential independent travellers out there who have long dreamt of making some grand trip to the farthest-flung parts of the globe. Few people have the resources to go where they really want and this award is a rare chance for someone, or a group of people, to realise some exceptionally ambitious dream.

I am particularly happy to be part of this as my own career as a traveller was kick-started by a travel award: it was a £750 prize from my university that set me off in the footsteps of Marco Polo to Xanadu, and resulted in the most wonderful three and a half months of my entire life. As any true traveller knows, there really is no greater pleasure in this life than your first long-distance trip.

One man who really knew this was one of my great heroes, Tom Coryat. He was Shakespeare's contemporary and had, as he put it, "an insatiable greediness of seeing strange countries, which exercise is indeed the queen of all pleasures in the world". In an effort to satisfy this love of travel he set off from Odcombe in Somerset – and walked to India. He "traced all this tedious way aboot with no small toyle of body and discomfort living compentle for a penny sterling a day" and arrived in Delhi to find

that he had run out of money. He made a small begging speech before the Moghul Emperor: "Lord Protector of the World, all hail to you", he said. "I am a poore traveller and world-seer, which am come from a farre country, namely England, queene of all the lands in the world..." Sadly, Coryat was so tattered and unkempt by this stage, that the emperor thought he was a sadhu (a holy man who had deliberately renounced wealth) and gave him only 10 rupees. Destitute, he spent the money on "a surfeit of sack" and died of dysentery soon after. If only this prize had been set up just a little earlier, Coryat might have returned home to write his book, *Drake and Raleigh* might never have had to turn to piracy to fund their expeditions, and the whole history of the Englishman abroad might have been very different.



William Dalrymple in the map room of the Royal Geographical Society

Photograph: Glyn Griffiths

## The Wildest Dreams Travel Challenge

**Who can enter:** Anyone aged between 18 and 35.  
**How to enter:** Fill out an application form giving details of your travel plans. These will be assessed by a panel of experts and a shortlist of applicants will be interviewed. Forms are available through a special hotline number 0171-231 5432, the Lonely Planet Internet <http://www.lonelyplanet.com.au>, at STA Travel or at Independent Traveller's World fairs.  
**When to enter:** By 26 April 1996. Winners will be announced on 6 May. If you're planning to leave before then, don't despair, we will be making interim awards. How much is the prize? The total bursary is £25,000 and the amount awarded to winners is at the judges' discretion. It is possible that one exceptional proposal (say a tour of the 177 countries where Heineken Export is available) could win the full amount...



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### Visitors' book

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The landscape with all its variety, curves and contours, spikes and steepness is sensationally and subtly captured by your artists. Wow, Canada is an amazing place.  
— Sharon T. England

These flowers are familiar, yet unfamiliar. I wonder about the world they grew in 300 years ago.  
— Patricia K. Oakville

I like the pictures, but I like the sculptures more. My favourite sculptures are the Henry Moore sculptures.  
— Brian F. aged 10. (The gallery has the world's largest collection of Henry Moore sculptures)

When I look at one of my sculptures, I think it's like going on a journey; each time you return, you see something different.  
— Henry Moore.

### Bargain of the week

National Express (0990 010104) has come up with a deal for the over 50s. Anyone born in 1945 or earlier now qualifies for a discount coachcard, offering around one-third off the cost of most long-distance bus journeys. Better still, until 15 February older travellers can make a return journey anywhere in Britain for £6.99. The offer excludes Fridays and Sundays, but if you avoid these dates then you save £78 on the Penzance-Inverness run. When a similar offer ran last year, one customer travelled 5,500 miles during the promotion.

### Trouble spots

This week's advice from our man in the Foreign Office

**Chechen Republic:** "The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs advises that the Russian Federation can no longer guarantee the personal safety of foreign nationals in the Chechen Republic. Travellers are strongly advised not to enter this region."

**Costa Rica:** "Do not wear jewellery or carry large amounts of cash, especially in the centre of San Jose, where gang muggings can occur even in daylight in busy streets."

**Croatia:** "Avoid travel to Eastern Slavonia (UN Sector East). Travellers should exercise caution in areas

bordering Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro, including the Prevlaka peninsula."

**Lebanon:** "Travel is inadvisable in south Lebanon beyond the city of Sidon because of continued shelling and paramilitary activity from the coast to the southern Bekaa Valley. Visitors are encouraged to register with the British Embassy in Beirut upon arrival (417007)."

Foreign Office travel advice is available on 0171-270 4129; on BBC-2 Ceefax page 564 onwards; and on the Internet at <http://www.fco.gov.uk/>



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# At home with the Cofan Indians

Mark Mann journeys into the Ecuadorean rainforest

**W**e were looking for adventure but left with a sense of life's fragility. It was not quite what we had expected. We had come to Ecuador to explore the rainforest and live among Indians — Cofan Indians from the village of Dureno in the north. To get there from Quito, Ecuador's capital, you take an overnight bus — a battered crate packed with stoical, moon-faced Indian peasants, chickens peering forlornly through holes in cardboard boxes, piglets curled up in baskets.

Mountains and pastures give way to tropical plantations as the bus twists down the endless slopes of the Andes, and when dawn breaks, it is over lush jungle, the early-morning air already heavy with a humidity. The bus stops at Lago Agrio — a hot, dusty, booming frontier town built 20 years ago solely because of oil exploration.

There, an Indian boy agreed to show us to Dureno if we paid his bus fare. We got off in the middle of nowhere and walked through the jungle to a fast-flowing river. Much shouting attracted the ferry — a man in a dug-out canoe.

The ferry man was Laureno. Short and plump, with a soft manner and a pudding-bowl haircut, he was to be our guide. He was dressed, like everyone else, in T-shirt, rubber boots and football shorts, but unlike most Cofans, he spoke some Spanish.

Laureno and his friend Delfin led us into the forest beyond the village, hacking away with machetes at the curtain of branches that had grown across the path in the fortnight since it was last used. After two hours, we reached a raised wooden platform in a

clearing, where we spent the next four nights and days.

Delfin and Laureno had devised a programme. They showed us trees 40 metres tall, hollow trees wide enough to sleep inside, and parasitic trees that grew around other trees, eventually strangling their host. We swung Tarzan-like, from gigantic hanging vines and swam in warm muddy streams. We learnt to fish with spears, weave giant leaves into instant shelters and fire darts from a blow-pipe. We saw how plants provide the Cofans with food, medicine, tools, fire, and materials for weaving, building and clothing.

I asked Laureno if he ever got lost in this endless maze of trees. "Yes. Sometimes. But I will always come to a tree that I know." Inside the forest, landscape disappears; there are no open views, no horizons. Trees and plants become the whole world.

Spider monkeys swung overhead. Electric blue butterflies flitted by. Shafts of sunlight filtered through the forest's leafy ceiling into its surprisingly cool, shady interior, like beams illuminating a Gothic cathedral. Ants nests as big as cars sent out giant tentacles of busy workers, insect motorways cutting through the tangled debris of fallen trees and plants.

At night, after meals of fresh fish, bananas and rice, we lay under mosquito nets, surrounded by the hum of insects and strange bird calls. One sounded disconcertingly like a telephone ringing. Another made a hollow, fluid sound like a pebble dropping into water.

We visited the tree where the last spiritual guide, or shaman, of the village used to sit alone for days, eating nothing except an emetic tree bark.



Under threat: Cofan Indians in the booming oil town of Lago Agrio

Photograph: South American Pictures

Only when he felt suitably cleansed would he delve into the rainforest's natural pharmacy of mind-altering plants.

Delfin said he had been mistakenly shot by a hunter while transformed into a tiger. His job was now vacant. A few village youths were keen on the drugs a shaman deals with, he explained, but the requisite celibacy and throwing up put off applicants.

We paid about £60 each for our time in the rainforest. Other tours can cost 10 times that, often with nothing going to the Indians themselves. Our trip was unusual in that it was run directly by the Cofans. Too often, Indians are treated as just another exotic exhibit to gawp at, and one tribe, the Maorani, have formally announced that they don't wish to be visited by tourists at all.

The Cofans — once numbering tens of thousands, but now only a few hundred-strong — migrated here from the highlands to escape the Spanish invaders. Now modern conquistadors, thirsty for oil rather than gold, have caught up with them, and there is nowhere left to run. Tourism may prove to be just another factor in the destruction of their culture. But, just possibly, it may help them survive.

## How to get to Ecuador

The best London-Quito fare from Journey Latin America (0181-747 3108) is £446 inc tax on Venezuelan airline Viasa via Caracas; the fare is valid until 29 Feb. Quito airport is near the city centre and a cheap cab ride from the central bus station.

## Further information

South American Explorers Club, Toledo 1254, La Floresta, Quito (566 076).

## Free Freeze competition: the results

This has involved many hours on the Internet, avoiding peeling Brussels sprouts. Judy Griffiths of West Yorkshire was one of hundreds of people who spent Christmas tackling our annual travel competition. Sadly, she was not among the lucky winners drawn from the Independent's Panama hat. Neither was Roy Williams of Hertfordshire, even though he supplied the helpful addendum that North America's tallest mountain was once known by the Russian name Bolshaya Gora ("big mountain"). P J Vokes of Tyne & Wear offered four other options. The acceptable answers were:

1. Iceland
2. Glasgow
3. Saskatchewan
4. Mull of Kintyre
5. Nova Scotia
6. Edinburgh Castle
7. Berwick
8. Mull of Clyde; all but the former are Scottish firths, all but the latter are sea areas.
9. Muckle Flugga
10. Copenhagen
11. Finland
12. Copenhagen
13. Spitzbergen
14. Denmark
15. Calgary
16. Baffin Island
17. Mount McKinley, Denali (both required)
18. Valdez
19. North West Territories
20. Ice Station
21. Greenland
22. South Ruislip
23. North Riding
24. Yap
25. Southwold, although Southend was also allowed if the village in Argyll or Strathclyde was identified.

## The winners

First prize goes to Miss K A Smith of Coventry, who wins a long weekend for two in Iceland courtesy of Arctic Experience. Chris Watkins of Derby wins second prize of a short break in Shetland, courtesy of Business Air, Shetland Islands Tourist Board and Busta House Hotel. And in third place, Mark Bolton of Manchester can start planning his trip to Russia with the *Siberian BAM Railway Guide*, published by Trailblazer. Our congratulations to the winners, and commiserations to the other entrants. The quiz this coming Christmas may lead to a trip somewhere a little warmer.



SIMON CALDER

You probably don't go to airports to eat, so Egon Ronay picked a soft target this month when he ladled vitriol on their restaurants. On France's leading airport, he says: "Food at Charles de Gaulle is for people who have damaged their palates in some way."

As has been widely reported, Mr Ronay found Heathrow airport way ahead of Continental competition: "The gen-

eral standard, although it needs constant monitoring, is increasing all the time."

What was not mentioned is that for four years, Egon Ronay has been paid by Heathrow — he and the airport declined to tell me how much — for precisely what Mr Ronay says must continue: monitoring Heathrow catering standards.

Mr Ronay has done much to raise standards of mass catering, and is perfectly entitled to criticise every airport apart from the one paying him. But if he believes Charles de Gaulle airport is beyond redemption, he should check out the Felix Potin supermarket in the basement of Terminal 1, where he will find the makings of an excellent airport picnic.

A Northwest Airlines flight from Gatwick to Minneapolis flew into turbulence last month when a party of 18 travellers let Christmas spirit get the better of them. According to the airline, they started throwing food at cabin crew, who then refused to serve them alcohol. Parents deployed their children to steal liquor, and a fracas started. Upon arrival, one passenger was detained and the rest were denied entry to the US and put on the next plane home.

A Surrey discount agency, Media Travel, has taken up the theme in a brochure of cut-

price tickets. The fares are good, but the small print is alarming. In terms and conditions, passengers are advised that "All flights [sic] must take place between 8 January and 28 March".

This year is unusual in that no total solar eclipse will take place (unless things go astronomically wrong). Instead, a last word on the eclipse in the summer of 1927. Robert Walker of north London writes with an elegant post-script to the story of the year when the last total eclipse took place in Britain.

Trains were run to Yorkshire for the event, and carried some illustrious passengers. "Now the colour was going out. Down in the Valley it was an extraordinary scramble of red & black... suddenly the light went out. We had fallen. It was extinct. There was no colour. The earth was dead. This was the astonishing moment: & the next when as if a ball had rebounded, the cloud took colour on itself again... They came back astonishingly lightly & quickly & beautifully in the valley & over the hills."

The female author's identity can be discerned from a clue elsewhere in the account: "This is Hatfield. I daresay," I said. I was smoking a cigar. The writer was Virginia Woolf, and the story appears in volume III of her diaries.

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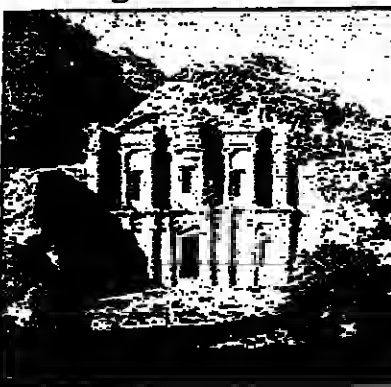
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by excursions to Little Petra, Jerash, and Wadi Rum. Finally, our last night is spent in the town of Bosra where we explore the perfectly preserved Roman amphitheatre before returning to Damascus for the flight to London Gatwick.

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# The ten best and ten worst cars of the century

Britain's car bosses have just enjoyed a pious and boozy week, first at Coventry cathedral and then at a 2000-person black-tie bash in Birmingham, to commemorate the centenary of the British motor industry. It should, by rights,

have been a lamentation not a celebration: to mourn the destruction by their predecessors (with help from Luddite trade union leaders and industry-illiterate politicians) of what, only 40 years before, was Europe's strongest car industry.

It is now merely an overseas assembly operation for a host of American, German, Japanese and French car giants - with some clever home-grown engineering, and a few low-volume locally owned car makers, thrown in.

Fact is, there isn't even a centenary to celebrate: there were British cars running around before Daimler was registered as a car company here 100 years ago, among them the first horseless carriage from Frederick Lanchester, Britain's first great

motoring genius. Still, if the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders wants to celebrate one of the greatest acts of British industrial incompetence of the last 100 years, I suppose it's not surprising that they got the date wrong.

Despite the industrial vandalism which has been wreaked, there's no denying that there have been some great British cars of the past century, as well as some real dogs. Here, we commemorate the 10 best, and castigate the 10 worst.

## THE HALL OF FAME

1. The Mini (1959) Its small dimensions, front-wheel drive and transverse engine started a trend which every small car now follows. Typical of British economic ineptitude, though, its maker lost money on every one it sold.

2. Jaguar E-type (1961) One of the most beautiful, best-value, fastest and most desirable cars ever. Perfectly in tune with the Sixties, a decade it represents as surely as the Beatles.

3. Austin Seven (1922) Cheap, simple, reliable; a car which helped to motorise Britain. It also helped to get BMW and Nissan into the car making business through overseas assembly deals.

4. Range Rover (1970) Handsome and extraordinarily competent (considering its bulk), the Range Rover sired the upmarket 4x4; a type of car still booming in markets as diverse as the US, Britain and Australia. It also proved perpetually superior to a host of imitators.

5. Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost (1907) The first (and probably only) time that Rolls-Royce built "the best car in the world". It's a measure of its superiority that the company has kept the reputation until today. That fact that tiny Rolls-Royce is now Britain's biggest locally owned car maker is a measure of how bad things have become.

6. Vauxhall 20hp (1908) The first quality "affordable" car. Allowed the middle classes to enjoy the sort of mechanical refinement then only available to the rich. In those days Vauxhall was a British company. It is now owned by General Motors, and all Vauxhalls are engineered in Germany.



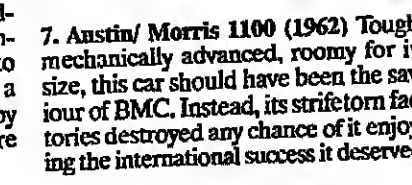
The Mini



Austin 7



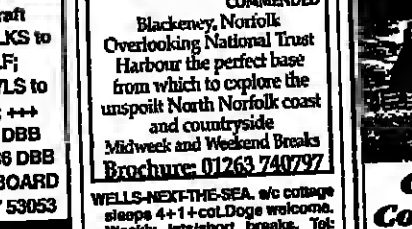
Austin Allegro



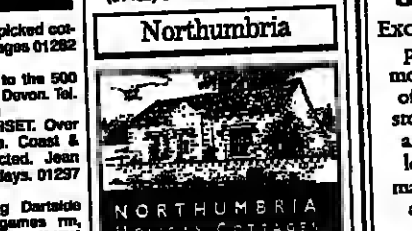
Austin Morris 1100



Jaguar XJ6



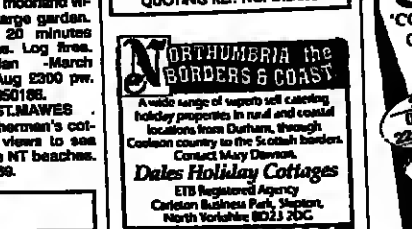
Lanchester



Jaguar XJR



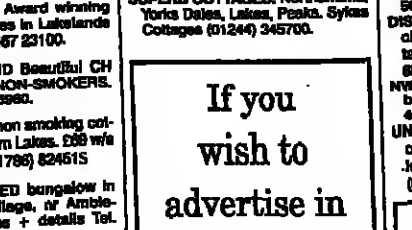
Austin Allegro



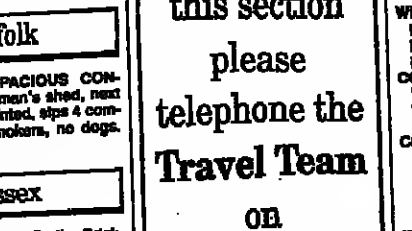
Austin Allegro



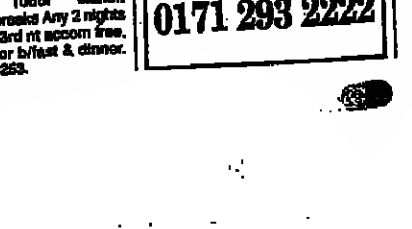
Austin Allegro



Austin Allegro



Austin Allegro



Austin Allegro

8. Jaguar XJ6 (1968) In various iterations, this car lasted until the early Nineties. It brought new levels of refinement to the class, but was repeatedly dogged by poor build quality. If Mercedes had built it, rather than a strike-ravaged, politically sensitive Coventry car maker, it would have been easily the best luxury car in the world.

9. Lanchester (1900) Although the first Lanchesters were tested from 1895, production cars weren't sold until 1900. It was incredibly advanced, especially in that it was designed as a car from the ground up, (where previous cars were often based on horse carriages, and used engines designed for stationary work) and in its use of counter-rotating shafts to dampen engine vibration.

10. Jaguar XJR (1994) The best car currently made in Britain, if one of the most comfortable, gorgeous and fast; proof that great British car firms (or at least some of them) can prosper under foreign ownership.

## THE SCRAPHEAP

1. Morris Ital (1982) BL's nadir. Hopelessly outdated engineering (based on the 1950s Morris Minor) mated to amazing marketing ineptitude. The Morris Marina, its closely related predecessor, was bought mainly for nationalistic reasons. So the gurus at BL gave its replacement an Italian sounding name. Brilliant.

2. Austin Allegro (1973) Its nickname was "all aggro", it had a rectangular steering wheel, and it was more aerodynamic when going backwards than forwards. Enough said.

3. Austin Ambassador (1982) Last and worst of the imaginative "Landcraab" cars, that began with the fine-but-ugly Austin 1800. Ancient mechanicals, chronic unreliability and plug-ugly looks all spell inevitable showroom failure.

4. Rolls-Royce Camargue (1975) Looking a bit like a cousin of Lady Penelope's six-wheeled pink Rolls-Royce, the Camargue was top Italian stylist Pininfarina's only job for Rolls. Clearly, they must have drafted in the B-team for this one, while the top guys were getting on with their Ferraris. It was a big ugly lump of a coupé that few people outside America bought.

5. Nissan Bluebird (1985) First of the Geordie-built Nissans, the Bluebird was B-grade Japanese technology mated to typically nondescript Japanese styling. It was miles behind the Sierras and Cavaliers of its day, but at least was well-made. Now a favourite of mini-cabbers.

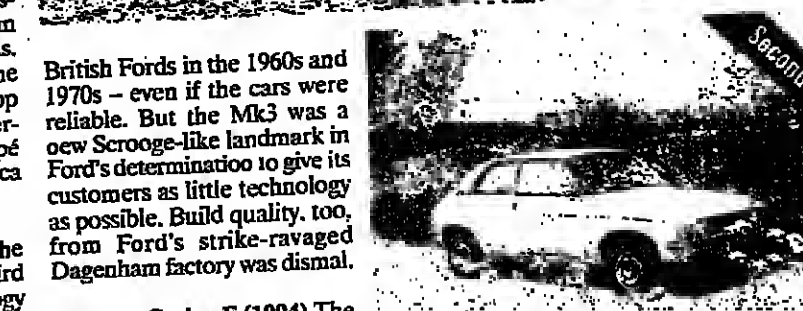
6. Reliant Robin (1974) Proof that four wheels are better than three.

7. Jaguar E-type 2+2 Series 3 V12 (1970) The gorgeous E-type was past its best when the Jaguar guys made it longer, heavier, soggy and fitted a massive fuel-thirsty V12. It ruined a great car.

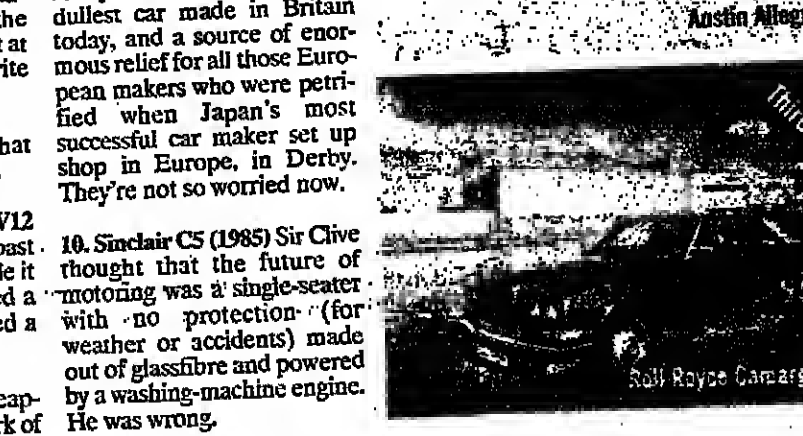
8. Ford Cortina Mk3 (1970) Cheap-skate engineering was the hallmark of



Morris Ital



Austin Allegro



Rolls-Royce Camargue



Nissan Bluebird



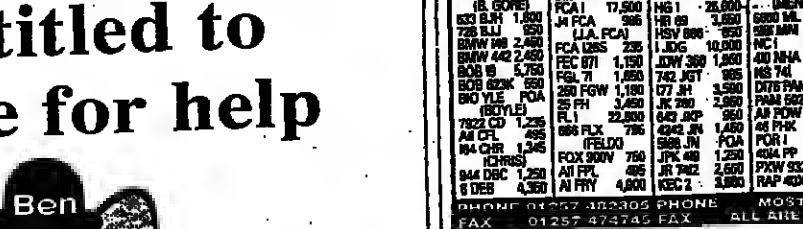
Reliant Robin



Jaguar E-type 2+2 Series 3 V12



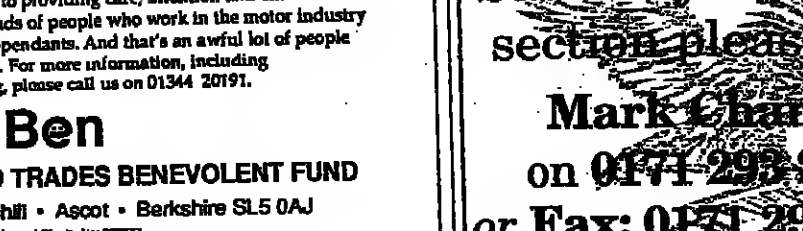
Ford Cortina Mk3



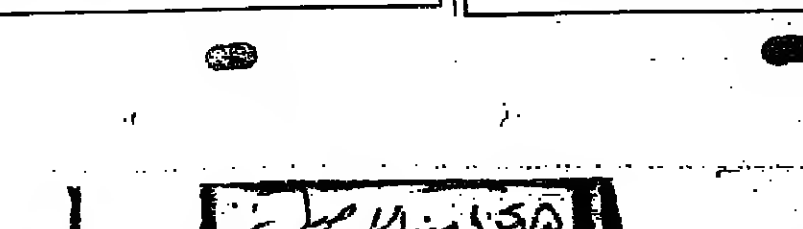
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# If you want to make money, move next to a banker



Professional moves:  
David McEwan outside his new home near Leeds  
Photograph: Justin Slee/Guzzellian

Househunter  
Greenwich, London SE10



These two Georgian terraces overlooking the Thames by the Royal Naval College in Greenwich have been knocked into one and turned upside down to create a large and stylish family house. The ground floor of the house on Ballast Quay has four bedrooms, a bathroom, sitting room and laundry, while the first floor contains a continuous sweep of living room, dining room and kitchen. There is a fifth bedroom and second bathroom on the top floor and a south-facing garden at the back. Winkworth is asking £395,000 for the freehold.

## For What It's Worth

Demand for homes to rent may increase by up to 60,000 a year according to a new report from Coopers & Lybrand. The report - "Private Renting at the Crossroads" - warns that unless new homes become available, the extra demand is likely to mean rent increases. It says that the collapse in house prices in the early Nineties forced many home owners to become landlords, and persuaded many people that renting was better than buying. The preference for rented accommodation among the young in particular is expected to continue, even if house prices recover enough to allow landlords to sell. The report bopes the shortfall in rented property will be made good by the Housing Investment Trusts, the government's latest vehicles for tax-efficient investment in the rented sector.

## Who's Moving

The new occupant of Number 18 Holland Park is Paul Allen, Bill Gates's other half at Microsoft. Mr Allen paid a record £8.5m for the double-fronted white stucco house which has a separate mews and is situated in the road where neighbours include Richard Branson. It was the third most expensive property sale of 1995.

Where there are lawyers, accountants and money men, there are house price rises. By Anne Spackman

Anyone seeking the property hot spots of 1996 should feel their divining rods twitch at places with high concentrations of banks, building societies and insurance companies. It used to be that where there was muck there was brass; now the brass itself seems to be self-perpetuating. Nowhere does the phrase apply better than Leeds. Though Leeds has always had a strong commercial sector it has now grown to become England's second city for financial services and the lawyers and accountants they spawn. The effect has been to cushion the city against the worst falls in house prices and to increase demand for the most desirable properties.

Similarly Edinburgh - where nearly a fifth of the population is employed in the financial sector - saw the largest house price rises anywhere in Britain in 1995. Prices in the city centre were up 15 per cent during last year.

The recovery of the central London property market, now into its fourth year, has also been strongly City-driven. Estate

agents are expecting a new flurry of bonus-cheque purchases this year. "By March it will be the bankers and brokers who will be our priority applicants," said James Laing of Strutt & Parker last week.

With job insecurity the major factor holding back the housing market nationwide, it is increasingly those in financial professions who have the confidence to move. Financial companies require a high degree of mobility from their employees. In London this has significantly boosted the lettings market, but in cities such as Edinburgh and Leeds, where property prices start low, job relocation has translated into real house sales. In all cases it means the most popular areas are doing well with no spin-off for the also-rans.

In Edinburgh, home to Scottish Widows, Standard Life and Scottish Equitable as well as the large Scottish banks, this has meant large price rises in the Old and New Towns. George Clark, chairman of the Edinburgh Solicitors Property Centre, says: "The explosion in financial services

has really sustained cities such as Edinburgh. These institutions demand a high degree of mobility from their employees and many of them offer subsidised mortgages. Because house prices have held up in Scotland we haven't had the real dent in people's confidence about whether it is worth buying a house at all. There has been no noticeable growth in the rented sector - partly because house prices start low and partly because we don't have a stock of serviced apartment blocks in the city."

Houses in the elegant New Town are changing hands for between £300,000 and £500,000. A house that Savills advertised with a guide price of £385,000 attracted four serious offers and went to a stockbroker for £465,000.

In Leeds, prices have not risen quite as far and fast as in Edinburgh, but the city is in buoyant mood. Harvey Nichols has chosen Leeds for the opening of its first store outside Knightsbridge this autumn. Coutts & Co has moved to larger premises on Park Square and the merchant

bank Rothschild is joining them round the corner.

The city's growing salaries are finding their way to the wealthy northern suburbs of Leeds and to towns such as Harrogate, Ilkley and Wetherby and the villages in between. Builders such as Redrow, Bryant and Crosby Homes are chasing prime development sites, causing prices to rise to more than £400,000 an acre.

This is the territory of Dacre, Son & Hartley, which has 18 estate agency offices covering the area. David Chary, director of its Ilkley office, said: "In the past year I have sold properties to senior partners in firms of chartered accountants and to senior directors of venture capital organisations and all of them have paid handsome prices. These people have prospered in Leeds in the last five years. As a result, the housing recession has not hit us as hard as other areas. The Halifax Building Society puts average house prices at just over £60,000," Mr Chary went on.

"In the golden triangle, the average house price is slightly in excess of £200,000."

The firm is currently selling two attractive period stone five-bedroom houses in Wharfedale, both with asking prices of £395,000. Cluttons's Harrogate office last year sold a five-bedroom manor house in Middleton, Ilkley, with planning permission for two homes in its garden for nearly £1m.

David McEwan knew it would be hard to find a good country cottage when he moved jobs from London to Leeds two months ago. Originally from Harrogate, he knew how popular the area had become. He is paying £70,000 for a two-up, two-down cottage being sold by Cluttons on the Ingley Estate in Ripley and expects to spend another £15,000-£20,000 doing it up.

Mr McEwan, 37, is typical of the kind of professional moving to Leeds. A barrister, he was working as a financier in London, but has moved to Leeds to work as a corporate finance lawyer with Hammond Suddards, one of the city's largest law firms. "I looked at firms in London, Manchester and Leeds," Mr McEwan said. "The message I got from the

headhunters was that these large Leeds practices are perceived as City firms. I've been here eight weeks now and it is the most professional place I have ever worked."

Despite the air of commercial confidence in all these cities, no one is talking up prices and no one is pretending these are boom days. Everywhere agents will say that there are only buyers for houses which are realistically priced.

Even in prosperous north Leeds, estate agents handling the middle to lower end of the market have had a difficult year, but there are signs that the worst may be over. Ben Smith, area manager of Halifax Property Services in north and west Leeds, said the final two months of 1995 had seen a real up-turn. "The browsers became buyers at the end of last year," he said. "We opened between Christmas and New Year and we had plenty of customers. We have already agreed sales in the first weeks of this year at all our offices in north Leeds. The next three to six months will be crucial."

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London Property		London Property		London Property		London Property	
<h2 style="text-align: center;">WORK, REST AND PLAY</h2>							
<p><b>QUAYSIDE</b> LIMEHOUSE BASIN</p>		<p><b>1, 2 &amp; 3 BEDROOM APARTMENTS, QUAYSIDE, LIMEHOUSE BASIN.</b></p> <p>At Quayside, there's a gym, a fully equipped business centre and some very special apartments, many with balconies overlooking the marina. Features include a 24 hour concierge, video entry phone security, plus all the quality and style you'd expect from St George.</p> <p>All this little more than a mile down river from the City and just 6 minutes on the Docklands Light Railway from Bank.</p> <p>Prices start from just £92,500 to £199,500. The Sales Information Centre is open daily from 10am to 6pm or you can telephone 0171 537 2516.</p> <p><small>Prices correct at time of going to press.</small></p>		<p><b>ST-GEORGE</b></p>		<p><b>A POWERFUL EXAMPLE OF PURE MODERNIST ARCHITECTURE</b> in the heart of Clerkenwell's restaurantland</p> <p><b>THE WARNER LOIT BUILDING</b></p> <p>WARNER STREET LONDON EC1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dual aspect apartments</li> <li>• Granite tiled balconies</li> <li>• South facing</li> <li>• Clear span space</li> <li>• Diagrid ceiling structure</li> <li>• Secure underground car parking</li> <li>• Prices start at £115,000 subject to contract</li> </ul> <p>OPEN SAT/SUN 12.00 - 3.00 PM CONTACT 0171 213 1543</p> <p>APARTMENTS FROM 750 TO 2800 SQUARE FEET APPROX.</p> <p>FINAL PHASE PRICES FROM £115,000 TO £375,000 A.T.C.</p>	
<p><b>Auctions</b></p> <p><b>General Accident Auctions</b> MAJOR PROPERTY AUCTIONS Mainly By Order of the Mortgagees including the Halifax Building Society</p> <p><b>SOUTHERN COUNTIES</b></p> <p>8TH FEBRUARY - MARRIOTT HOTEL, PORTSMOUTH Hants, Wilts, Dorset &amp; Isle Of Wight</p> <p><b>NORTH EAST</b></p> <p>20TH FEBRUARY - THREE TUNS HOTEL, DURHAM Cleveland, Co Durham, Tyne &amp; Wear &amp; Northumberland</p> <p><b>NORTH WEST</b></p> <p>21ST FEBRUARY - HAYDOCK PARK RACECOURSE, MERSEYSIDE Gt Manchester, Cheshire, Merseyside, Lancs &amp; Chryd, West - South - North Yorkshire &amp; Notts</p> <p><b>MIDLANDS</b></p> <p>22ND FEBRUARY - NEC, BIRMINGHAM Staffs, West Midlands, Warwickshire, Notts, Gloucestershire, Dyfed, Gwent, Leicestershire, Lincs, Norfolk, Beds, Cambs, Oxon &amp; Northants</p> <p><small>FOR A FULL LIST OF AUCTIONS &amp; A FREE CALL THE NUMBER ABOVE AND FOR AN INFORMATION ALL CALLS CHARGED AT WHOLESALE RATES. OFFICES AT FLOOR 01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67/68/69/70/71/72/73/74/75/76/77/78/79/80/81/82/83/84/85/86/87/88/89/90/91/92/93/94/95/96/97/98/99/00/01/02/03/04/05/06/07/08/09/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19/20/21/22/23/24/25/26/27/28/29/30/31/32/33/34/35/36/37/38/39/40/41/42/43/44/45/46/47/48/49/50/51/52/53/54/55/56/57/58/59/60/61/62/63/64/65/66/67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## money

## Best borrowing rates

Telephone	% Rate and period	Max adv %	Fee	Incentive	Redemption penalty
<b>MORTGAGES</b>					
<b>Fixed rates</b>					
Hinckley & Rugby Yorkshire BS	0800 774499	0.50 to 1/1/97	70	£250	3 yrs unemployment ins
Yorkshire BS	0800 578836	5.99 for 3 years	85	£250	1st 5 yrs: indiv determined
<b>Variable rates</b>					
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	6.99 to 1/1/01	95	£295	1st 5 yrs: 6% of sum repaid
Scarborough BS	0800 590547	1.09 for 1 year	95	—	£150 cash rebate
<b>First time buyers fixed rates</b>					
Principality BS	01222 344188	5.20 to 1/4/99	75	—	1st 5 yrs: rebata reclaimed
National Counties	01372 742211	5.99 for 5 years	70	—	£1.1% of sum repaid
<b>First time buyers variable rates</b>					
Bristol & West BS	0800 100117	0.95 to 31/1/97	90	£275	1st 5 yrs: discount rec'd
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	4.49 to 1/4/98	95	£295	1st 5 yrs: 5% of sum repaid
Mortgage Trust	0800 550551	7.49 to 1/1/01	95	—	1st 5 yrs: 6/3 mths interest
<b>First time buyers variable rates</b>					
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	1.19 to 1/4/97	90	—	Refund valuation fee
Marcantile BS	0191 295 9550	4.24 to 1/4/98	90	£195	Refund valuation fee
Abbey National	0800 555100	6.34 to 31/1/01	90	—	Refund valuation fee

## PERSONAL LOANS

Telephone	APR	Fixed monthly payments (£3,000 over 3 years)
<b>Unsecured</b>		
Direct Line	0141 248 9966	14.90E
Midland Bank	0800 180180	15.40
Abbey National	0345 545556	15.50
<b>Secured (second charge)</b>		
Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	8.60
Royal B of Scotland	Via branch	9.30
First Direct	0800 242424	9.80

## OVERDRAFTS

Telephone	Account	Authorised % pm	Unauthorised % pm
Woodwich BS	0800 400900	Current	0.76
Alliance & Leicester BS	0500 959595	Alliance	0.76
Abbey National	0500 200500	Current	0.79

## CREDIT CARDS

Telephone	Card	Min income	Rate %	APR %	Annual fee
<b>Standard</b>					
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	0.94G	11.80
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	1.00	14.60
Royal Bank of Scotland	0800 161616	MasterCard	—	1.14	14.50
<b>Gold cards</b>					
Co-operative Bank	0345 212212	Visa	£20,000	0.5208M	10.80
Royal B of Scotland	01702 362890	Visa	£20,000	1.05	14.50
NatWest Bank	0800 200400	Visa	£20,000	1.14	15.90

## STORE CARDS

Telephone	Payment by direct debit % pm	APR	Payment by other methods % pm	APR
John Lewis	Via store	—	1.39	18.00
Marks and Spencer	01244 681681	1.87A	24.80	1.97A
Sears	Via store	1.94	25.90	2.20

APR Annualised percentage rate.  
 A 1.53% (19.97% APR) for rate over £1K.  
 E Available to comprehensive credit insurance policyholders aged over 22 years.  
 H Annual fee waived after first year if £1K+ charged to card during previous year.  
 All rates subject to change without notice.

## Best savings rates

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>Portman BS</b>					
01202 292444	Instant Access	Instant	£100	4.80	Year
<b>Teachers BS</b>					
0800 378669	Build Share	Instant	£500	5.70	6 Months
<b>Co-operative Bank</b>					
0345 252000	Pathfinder	Instant	£5,000	5.37	Month
<b>Skipton BS</b>					
01756 700511	High Street	Instant	£30,000	6.50	Year

Manchester BS	0161 639 3545	Money by Mail	Postal	£1,000	5.50	Year
Bristol & West BS	0800 303330	Direct Access	Postal	£5,000	5.75	Year
Bristol & West BS	0800 303330	Direct Access	Postal	£10,000	5.80	Year
Manchester BS	0181 839 3545	Money by Mail	Postal	£25,000	6.25	Year

Nottingham BS	0115 948 1444	Postmark	7 day P	£2,500	5.75	Year
C&G	0800 717505	Direct 30	30 day P	£1,000	6.50	Year
C&G	0800 717505	Direct 30	30 day P	£10,000	6.75	Year
C&G	0800 717505	Direct 30	30 day P	£25,000	7.10	Year

Co-operative Bank	0345 252000	Pathfinder	Instant	£5,000	5.37	Month
C&G	0800 717505	Direct 30	30 day P	£5,000	6.51	Month
C&G	0800 717505	Direct 30	30 day P	£10,000	6.85	Month
C&G	0800 717505	Direct 30	30 day P	£25,000	6.88	Month

West Bromwich BS	0990 143668	Guaranteed Growth	31/1/97	£5,000	6.80F	Maturity
Sum Banking Corp	01438 744505	Investment Certs	2 yr bond	£1,000	6.60F	Year
Bradford & Bingley BS	01274 555332	Fixed Rate Bond	1/4/99	£2,500	6.90F	Year
Sum Banking Corp	01438 744505	Investment Certs	5 yr bond	£1,000	7.25F	Year

Chelston BS	0800 717575	Classic Postal	Instant	£2,500	4.50	Year
Kleinwort Benson	01202 502404	HICA	Instant	£2,500	5.50	Month
Alliance & Leicester BS	0116 271 7272	Alliance	Instant	£5,000	5.00	Month
Northern Rock BS	0500 505000	Current A/C Gold	Instant	£10,000	5.27	Month

Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388	1 year	£5,000	4.75FN	Year
Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388	2 year	£5,000	5.00FN	Year
Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388	3 year	£5,000	5.20FN	Year
Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388	4 year	£5,000	5.40FN	Year
Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388	5 year	£3,000	6.20FN	Year

Newcastle Bank, Ltd	00 350 76168	Nova Access	Instant	£5,000	6.10	Year
Skipton (Guernsey) Ltd	01481 727374	Guernsey 60	60 day	£25,000	6.75	Year
Portman CI Ltd	01491 822747	Gold Plus	90 day	£5,000	6.45	Year
B'ham Midshires, Guern	01481 700680	Fixed Account	31.1.99	£5,000	7.25F	Year

<b>NATIONAL SAVINGS Accounts &amp; Bonds (rates as at 1/1/96)</b>					
Investment Account	1 month	£20	£20	5.25	Year
			£500	5.75	Year
			£25,000	6.00	Year
Income Bond	3 month	£2,000	£2,000	6.50	Month
			£25,000	6.75	Month
Capital Bond	5 year	£100	£100	7.75 F	Maturity
First Option Bond	12 month	£1,000	£1,000	6.40 F	Year
			£20,000	6.80 F	Year
Pensioner's G'teed Income Bond	5 year	£500	£500	7.50 F	Month
NS Certificates (tax-free)	5 year	£100	£100	5.85 F	Maturity
42nd Issue	5 year	£100	£100	3.00+RPI	Maturity
Rth Index linked	5 year	£100	£100	7.85 F	Maturity
Children's Bond	Issue G	£25	£25	7.85 F	Maturity

P post only F fixed rate  
 N net rate  
 All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without notice.

FEAR OF FINANCE  
Clifford German

The scramble to get aboard the building societies' free share bandwagon is at the same time unseemly and unfair. The chief executive of Woolwich, Peter Robinson, openly expressed his contempt last week for the carpetbaggers who had rushed to share the spoils with loyal members who have been customers of the society for many years and arbitrarily disenchanted 40,000 people who had opened accounts since the end of 1995 in the hope of making a quick buck when the society votes to become a bank.

No one will shed many tears over their misfortune. But there is no reason to condemn their actions as immoral, any more than it is wrong to condemn people for accepting free offers of any kind. They are simply taking advantage of opportunities created by commercial pressures on building societies and the absence of clear rules to prevent speculation.

In the past week Britannia and Alliance & Leicester have been forced to move to discourage speculators by refusing to open any more new accounts which offer an easy route to membership.

Closing an account to new investors is at least a clearer signal than a backdated cut-off date. But this will only redirect rather than end the frenzied search for speculative profits.

On Thursday, Bristol & West was forced to take the first steps down the same path and raise the minimum entry for share accounts to £2,500.

The choices facing most societies now are between attracting a flood of accounts they neither want nor need, adopting a permanent siege mentality, or

being pushed into an early decision to convert to banking status. As one society after another takes steps to protect itself the pressure on other societies to follow suit will inevitably increase, in the absence of any clear guidelines.

The only guidelines are contained in the Building Societies Act of 1986 but they are quite inadequate for current circumstances. The Act restricted "membership" of a building society to any adult who holds more than £100 in a share account and all current mortgage borrowers.

But there was and is no formal definition of what a share account conveying membership actually is. In 1986 it was left to the societies themselves to decide which accounts are share accounts conveying membership, and which were deposit accounts which do not convey membership rights.

Tessas generally count as share accounts while unit trusts bought from a building society do not. Most current accounts with a cheque book are classed as deposit accounts, while savings accounts accessed by a passbook or cash card are share accounts, but it is impossible to tell from the name of the account, because societies have given them all sorts of fancy names. You have to ask to be sure.

Many thousands of speculators will already have guaranteed themselves windfalls by opening accounts over the past year, while genuine long-term investors will miss out because they have deposit accounts and never knew the difference. Meanwhile if nothing is done the entire building society movement is liable to be swept away by the tide of speculation.

**If the State can't provide financial security, shouldn't you make a Resolution to keep something up your sleeve?**



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As the one real  
sin in investing is  
sentimentality,  
it pays to be  
hard-nosed. The  
Granada and Forte  
saga is a useful  
reminder of the  
general truths  
about investment

Granada's takeover bid for Forte has been one of the most ballyhooed for years, and resonates with echoes of the great corporate free-for-alls of the mid 1980s. Next week it comes to a climax when the big investment institutions will effectively decide whether to give Granada its prize. My guess is that when the votes are counted Granada will win, and for a simple and appropriate reason. It runs a business better.

It is true that Forte's defence has been both startling and dramatic, with the management unveiling more changes in a matter of weeks than it has produced in the previous 10 years. Such a vivid defence has certainly captured the attention of the City and the big institutions, many of whom previously took the view that Forte was a company with a rich crop of assets whose managers had simply gone to sleep.

This is not a matter of personalities. Nobody who has met him could doubt the integrity or commitment of Sir Rocco Forte to his family's business.

But it will not be enough to see off Granada, I suspect, for the

simple reason that the wholesale changes Forte has announced are an admission of weakness. They concede the point that Forte's management did not have the interests of shareholders high on their list of priorities. I have no doubt that the advice of the merchant bankers at the first meeting of the defence team was blunt but uncompromising: "get busy quickly, or you might as well give up".

But being busy alone is not enough. The choice investors face has boiled down to two things. One, is the price that Granada is offering reasonable? Answer, yes, though anyone who accepts Granada shares for their Forte shares must worry whether the Granada share price will hold up. (Private investors should think carefully about the option of selling their shares for cash in the market while they still can.)

Secondly, is there any reason to believe that Forte's management will suddenly find a new dynamism in the running of the rump of the business? My guess is that most institutions will reluctantly decide to put their trust in Granada's



JONATHAN DAVIS  
INVESTMENTS

management. All the other factors that have been trotted out in Forte's defence – the promise of higher dividends, the coming upturn in the hotel business cycle and so on – will come into play whichever side wins.

Granada's boss Gerry Robinson remains the man with the reputation for turning businesses round, and while conglomerates which make their living on the strength of their turnaround skills do eventually run out of momentum (just look at Hanson), Robinson has yet

to put a foot wrong and will, I suspect, get the benefit of any doubt.

There are wider implications in the affair too, which is why this takeover, unlike Glaxo-Wellcome last year, has attracted comment beyond the narrow confines of the City pages. Big name columnists, such as Lord Rees-Mogg and Paul Johnson, have rallied to Forte's cause. Others have fulminated against the crude justice of the uninhibited culture of takeover which applies in this country, to the detriment, they believe, of our long-term economic prospects.

It is wise to take these periodic outbursts with a pinch of salt. The roll-call of names that has come out in Forte's defence is impressive, but does it demonstrate anything other than how far Forte, once the butt of derogatory jokes, has come in winning a place in the hearts of the Establishment? The logic of those who rail against Granada's bid is far from compelling.

The only point they make which is undoubtedly true is that the costs of the bid – which could run to £250m by the time you throw in the underwriting fees – are exces-

sive. They reflect the fact that the City's banks and professional firms enjoy a quasi-monopoly in the handling of takeover transactions. But the answer is not to blame the system, but to change it.

As far as investors are concerned, the issues about takeovers are relatively simple. As the one real sin in investing is sentimentality, it pays to be as hard-nosed as possible about deciding where your interests lie. In my view, the Granada and Forte saga is a useful reminder of general truths about stock market investment.

□ All companies have a life-cycle. Some run out of steam quickly, others more slowly. Only a handful find ways of regenerating themselves through more than one generation. Thirty years ago, Forte was the upstart caterer who took over the tired and moribund Trust Houses group. Takeovers are a crude but effective mechanism for putting new management, new capital and new ideas into flagging companies. Investors should have no quarrel with a system that gives them the opportunity to improve the quality of their investments in

this way, especially since it involves them in no real effort or outlay.

□ But most takeovers do not add value for the shareholders of the bidding company. The academic evidence on this point is overwhelming. The reason for this paradox is not that there is anything wrong with takeovers *per se*. It is that too many are embarked on for the wrong reasons (eg personal aggrandisement) and too many holders pay more money than they should. The flip side is that shareholders in the target companies often do better than they ought to.

So my conclusions are as follows. Forte shareholders should not complain about the Granada bid. It has already made them appreciably wealthier than they were before. Selling part at least of the holdings for cash seems a prudent hedge against either the bid failing or Granada proving to have overreached itself. Granada shareholders face a tougher choice, but my instinct is that the Gerry Robinson bandwagon has not yet run its course – and the shares are good for a while yet. The next deal will probably be the one too far.

## Expats need to keep an eye on the calendar to earn tax breaks

By Ian Hunter

Working overseas is becoming increasingly possible for UK nationals. They can work freely anywhere within the European Economic Area (EEA). This area consists of the 15 EU member states together with Norway and Iceland. Workers may still however have to register their presence with the police on arrival.

Employment in the United States is more regulated. Many UK nationals enter under the L1 visa which permits the temporary transfer of specialised employees to the United States for up to two years. Such employees must normally have worked for their employer for at least a year prior to transfer.

Careful tax planning is a must for well-paid overseas workers. Such employees fall into two categories for tax purposes, resident and non-resident.

If you have worked full-time abroad for at least a complete tax year (6 April in one year to 5 April in the following year) and have carried out all your duties abroad, you will not be treated as resident for tax purposes – provided you do not visit the UK for more than an average of 91 days in any year. If you have satisfied these conditions you will not be liable for UK tax on your earnings.

Alternatively, if you are not out of the United Kingdom for a complete tax year, you will be able to take advantage

of an alternative tax concession, known as 365-day relief. This is available to those who remain resident in the UK for tax purposes but are out of the country for a qualifying period of 365 days.

Within this period, you can spend up to one sixth of your time in the UK, subject to a maximum of 62 consecutive days on any one visit.

If you qualify for this relief but return home permanently before the 365-day qualifying period is over, the relief is lost and income tax will be payable. UK tax is still payable on earnings from other sources such as share dividends or building society interest earned in the UK.

Those working abroad in a large number of countries

including the United States, Russia and Australia, have an additional advantage. The UK has entered into a number of double-tax treaties. Under these arrangements each country agrees to give up or reduce its tax in certain circumstances, to avoid individuals paying tax on earnings in two different countries. Eileo where no treaty exists, relief from UK tax will generally be

available on any foreign tax paid by UK residents.

Under the dual treaty arrangement, individuals who are sent to the United States by a UK employer with no permanent home over there are exempt from paying US Federal taxes – provided that they do not stay for more than 183 days in the relevant US tax year (1 January to 31 December). It is worth bearing

in mind that this exemption applies only to Federal taxes not individual State taxes.

The UK-US social security treaty provides that those working in the United States for a UK employer may continue to pay only UK contributions, provided the stay does not exceed five years.

If you go to work in Australia, you can carry on making

contributions for up to three years after leaving the UK to safeguard entitlements such as your basic retirement pension.

Your employer must in any event continue to pay your national insurance contributions during the first year that you are there.

If you do go to work anywhere overseas, you should ensure that your contract of

employment addresses at the outset all points of concern including the relocation package offered at the start and the repatriation arrangements at the end of the assignment.

Those working in countries with weak economies should also ensure that their salaries are paid in a stable currency such as sterling, US dollars or German marks.

### TESSAWATCH

The latest cut in base rates could lead to early cuts in interest payable on variable rate Tessas and is expected to increase the attractions of fixed-rate offers.

West Bromwich BS has already cut the interest on its new flexible saver Tessa from 7.15 per cent to 6.75 per cent and the option to switch to a guaranteed rate after three years has been cut from 8.25 to 8 per cent.

Alliance & Leicester has closed its Tessa accounts to new investors to stop investors opening an account simply to qualify for shares when the society converts into a bank. Until Tuesday it allowed new investors to open a new Tessa with just £1,000.

Asset managers Johnson Fry now recommend a Tessa with Britannia (minimum balance of £250), Nationwide (minimum balance £25), Northern Rock (minimum £1), Birmingham Midshires (minimum £100) and Coventry Building Society (minimum £1), as the best way of combining a new Tessa with a takeover bet. All Tessa accounts are subject to transfer penalties once opened, but all qualify as share accounts.

Flemings and Save & Prosper have introduced a new higher rate deposit account with instant access, specifically aimed at investors with interest on maturing Tessas which they cannot roll-over. It is available to anyone with £1,000 or more of interest on a maturing Tessa. Interest is credited quarterly and can be rolled up and the basic rate is guaranteed not to be more than 1 per cent below Fleming's base rate for the rest of this year.

Derbyshire BS is now offering its 7.2 per cent fixed rate follow-up Tessa, originally limited to its own customers, to all investors who have maturing Tessas. A variable rate follow-up Tessa currently offers 4.87 per cent with a 50 per cent loyalty bonus on the interest after five years.

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# money



## loose change

Nine or ten new venture capital trusts are due to be launched in the next month to catch the seasonal tide of investors looking to shelter capital gains by investing in a VCT.

Edinburgh-based Hodgson Martin, a leading provider of business expansion schemes in the Eighties is looking for £13m to invest in a portfolio of around 20 AIM or unquoted companies with a proven management record.

Up to 20 per cent of the fund has to be invested in ordinary shares but up to 49 per cent can be put into preference shares and loan stock. The balance will go into short-dated gilts to help underwrite the target yield of 4 per cent, which tax reliefs can gear up to 12.5 per cent. The annual charge will not exceed 2 per cent and the minimum investment is just £2,000.

Several new personal equity plans based on investment trusts have been launched to try and catch the overspill from maturing Tessas. Schroders is launching a new PEP based on its UK Growth Fund launched in March 1994. Since then it has risen 25.4 per cent and is the second best of 34 investment trusts investing in UK shares, helped by the strong performance of holdings in Asda, Standard Chartered Bank and takeover victims Fisons, Boddington and TSB.

A new issue of shares is being made with warrants attached, both of which qualify for inclusion in a PEP. Launch expenses are capped at 4.5 per cent, the management charge has been shaved to 0.7 per cent plus VAT and

an extra 0.5 per cent plus VAT PEP charge. Minimum investments are £3,000 in a PEP or £1,000 outside. The offer closes at noon on 29 February.

Supermarket group Budgens is issuing a Visa loyalty card which doubles as a conventional Visa card, usable world-wide, and a loyalty card which earns points redeemable for vouchers to be spent in-store. The interest rate on unpaid balances is 22.4 per cent APR, the £15 annual fee is waived in year one and the card is then free to customers who spend over £2,000 a year.

The card earns five points for every £5 spent in Budgens and two points for every £5 spent elsewhere. Every 200 points each quarter qualifies for a £10 voucher. Budgens also offers cardholders a cash advance of £1,000, interest-free until May 1996, which can be used to pay off other credit card bills.

Murray Johnstone (0141-1226 3131) has launched a new Dublin-based investment fund which will be able to invest in up to 20 short-dated Eurosterling loan stocks issued by financial institutions, which are not eligible for inclusion in a corporate bond PEP. Short-dated stocks maturing on average in about 30 months are less liable to fall in value if interest rates rise, the risks of stock issued by, for example, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, Deutsche Bank, and Halifax are very low.

Yields of 8 per cent are anticipated, but interest is allowed to accumulate. Income is withdrawn by sell-

ing shares in the fund and the gains alone are taxed as income.

No tax is payable until money is withdrawn, and ownership can be transferred to children or spouses for tax planning purposes. There is a sales charge of 2 per cent, an admin charge of 0.3 per cent and an annual management charge of 0.75 per cent, but no exit or withdrawal charges. The fund is launched on Monday, and the minimum subscription is £2,000.

Many mortgage lenders have withdrawn existing offers and replaced them with lower rates. Northern Rock has reduced its fixed rates to 4.49 per cent until March 1998, 6.24 per cent until March 1999 and 6.99 per cent to March 2001. An extra 0.25 per cent is charged if the society's insurance is not taken.

Leek United is offering a 2 per cent discount for three years on its 7.49 per cent standard variable rate, for a maximum 75 per cent loan to value. N&P is offering fixed rates of 7.3 per cent to the end January 2000, 7.65 per cent to January 2001 and 8.05 per cent to January 2002, all for 90 per cent loan to value.

HomeLoans Direct has replaced its discount rates with a 4 per cent discount on the current 7.45 per cent variable rate for one year, 2 per cent discount for two years and 1.5 per cent discount for three years. Birmingham Midshires has a new fixed rate of 6.99 per cent to January 2000. Chesam has cut its mortgage rate to 7.29 per cent.

Leeds & Holbeck Building Society is offering a 10 year

fixed-rate repayment mortgage at 7.99 per cent throughout its life, targeted at those who want to pay off their mortgage quickly. On a £50,000 loan the monthly repayments are £598.60 compared with £364.10 on a 25-year mortgage at the same rate, and because of the higher repayments the society will only lend 2.5 times the main income plus a possible 0.5 times a second income.

But total repayments over the life of the loan are only £71,832 a saving of £37,400 over a comparable 25-year loan. The loan is portable but an early redemption fee of 180 days' interest is required. An extra 0.25 per cent is charged if the society's contents and buildings insurance is not taken and an application fee of £295 is charged but can be added to the loan.

Personal loan rates are being cut at TSB, by up to 3 per cent APR. Loans of £7,500 and upwards are now 14.9 per cent APR. Up to £2,999 the rate is 21.9 per cent, up to £4,999 18.9 per cent and between £5,000 and £7,500 the rate is 16.9 per cent APR.

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# Ethical investment that won't cost the earth

Alison Eadie on a fund that regards more than 80 of the FT-SE 100 companies as taboo

An ethical fund manager's lot is not an easy one. Others may roam around the UK and world stockmarkets picking what they fancy, but whole swathes of the market are taboo to managers of ethical funds. Despite this, they have to produce returns good enough to justify their existence.

Simon Baker, manager of Jupiter's £20m Ecology Fund, a peccable unit trust, has only 390 companies worldwide to pick from, including 260 in the UK. He can invest in just 15 of the FT-SE 100 companies (16 per cent of the index by value) and only 21 per cent by value of the FT-All Share index.

The fund's investment policy is among the strictest of all UK ethical funds as it is both ethical and green. It rules out the usual sin stocks of alcohol, tobacco, armaments, nuclear power and animal testing and subjects the remaining companies to a rigorous green audit. Many fail.

Asda, despite having produced wonders for shareholders under chief executive Archie Norman, is not yet eco-friendly enough to make the grade. Tesco, Argill (Safeway) and Sainsbury's, by contrast, do enough

on recycling, packaging and limiting CFCs to qualify for inclusion.

The Ecology Fund uses "sustainable development" as its touchstone. Sectors like water, power and food are included as they are essential to human life. Water companies making an effort to clean up their effluent are in, but those with high leakage rates are out. Telecommunications are favoured as they cut down the need for travel.

Mr Baker explains that he looks for companies with a product or service of benefit to the environment, like recycling waste or wind farms. He also targets companies trying to "limit their eco footprint", including those which have qualified for environmental standards like BS7500 and Emas (eco management and audit scheme).

The approved list is increasing as companies realise it makes good business sense to implement sound environmental policies, says Mr Baker. Pilkington has recently been added having passed its green audit, along with Thorn (EMI) after it sold off its defence business.

When he began managing the Ecology Fund 17 months ago, Mr

Baker thought its onerous restrictions would make good performance tough to achieve. "In the short term performance can be lumpy," he concedes. He points out that the good run by pharmaceutical companies of late has been entirely missed, as the fund avoids the sector on grounds of animal testing. However, over the past four years the fund has tracked the FT-All Share index quite closely.

"For every negative, there is a positive," says Mr Baker. The fall-out in defence stocks after the end of the Cold War was avoided as was the slump in the fortunes of construction companies after government and local authority spending dried up.

Overseas, the fund has missed out on the excitement of emerging markets, but has also avoided the downside of these highly volatile investments. "In a funny way the Ecology Fund is low risk," suggests Mr Baker.

Capital growth is the fund's objective. Mr Baker describes himself as a value investor. "I don't like highly rated companies and I am very keen on margins and the trend of margins." He believes a company is reasonably valued if turnover less debt is twice market capitalisation.

The strings of fashion can hit green stocks harder than most. In the late 1980s their share prices went to sky high price-earnings ratios, but the cut in corporate and consumer spending on green products in recession forced p/e ratios to a discount. They have now edged back up with the market, but Mr Baker is keeping a wary eye out for signs of the next economic downturn.

Favoured stocks at the moment include Powerscreen, a UK engineering company manufacturing crushing and recycling equipment, and Thermo Electron, a US company specialising in environmental technologies and alternative power sources. In 20 years Thermo Electron has delivered 20 per cent compound earnings growth and never lost a top manager, says Mr Baker.

Nestor BNA, provider of nurses and carers, is his star performer. He knew the company before joining Jupiter and bought lots of shares at 40p on arrival. They have since doubled in price.

The name cannot be said for Envirol, which recycles industrial oil to re-sell as fuel or engine oil and which rates as one of Mr Baker's least

good bets. He says he failed to spot the company's weather dependence and the hot summer hurt profits and the share price.

Risk is diffused by capping each investment at no more than 3 per cent of the fund's value. Risk is also diffused geographically with 35 per cent of the fund held in overseas stocks. Some 22 per cent is in the US, 5 per cent in Europe and the rest in the Far East and Australia.

Mr Baker says the fund has been overweight in the US and has done very well there, but it may be time to change. With more companies going green, as management realises it makes sound business sense, the fund's investment possibilities are increasing. In the meantime Mr Baker will keep talking to Business in the Environment, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, government bodies like the National Rivers Authority and anyone else who can keep him abreast of trends in the green world.

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**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**MONDAY**

**Television**  
by Gerard Gilbert

Horizon 8pm BBC2. Despite the billions spent on research, more people are dying of cancer than ever. Now there's new hope in the form of 'immunotherapy', which helps the body's own defences (44/957).

Our Friends in the North 9pm BBC2. Malcolm McDowell makes his return to British TV, in the second part of Peter Flannery's epic drama (197006).

Cutting Edge: I Married a Great Train Robber 9pm C4 (above). Ronnie Biggs, to be precise, as Charnain Biggs tells her story (2667).

**TUESDAY**

Film: Single White Female (Barbet Schroeder 1992 US) 9pm ITV. Flatmate-from-hell Jennifer Jason Leigh moves in on Bridget Fonda's possessions - then her entire persona. Fun (8526).

The House 9.30pm BBC2. Set designs are late and the new floors too slippery in the ongoing disaster-dog about the Royal Opera House (147930).

Omnibus: Theft of the Century 10.40pm BBC1 (above). How the police got back Munch's The Scream (864304).

**WEDNESDAY**

Della Smith's Winter Collection 8.30pm BBC2. Della goes oriental, with her famously down-to-earth advice on Thai, Japanese and Chinese dishes (9892).

Hollywood Men 9pm ITV. How to become a star. Meet the aspirants and the stars of 'today' (read 'yesterday'). Carlton's access isn't that great - and meet John Wayne Bobbitt... (59277).

Under the Sun 9.30pm BBC2 (above). The King of Tonga's 75th birthday - and a portrait of a feudal society in action (960281).

**THURSDAY**

Thief Takers 9pm ITV. The spiritual heir to The Sweeney screams into a full-blown series after being glimpsed in pilot form last year. Crisley - they even say 'you're nicker'. Fair cop, guy (9800).

In Advance of the Landing 9pm C4. Some of the nutters who are actually looking forward to an alien landing (3678).

NYPD Blue 10pm C4. Steve Bochco's Manhattan cops return with another series to thrill devotees and make everyone else feel seashell (449922).

**FRIDAY**

Paul Merton in Galton and Simpson's... 8.30pm ITV. Grrrr! Paul Merton pretends he's Tony Hancock and acts out vintage Galton and Simpson sketches (1220).

Film: Alive: The Story of the Andes Survivors 10.25pm BBC1. South American rugby players crash land in the Andes. Mmm. Now what's for dinner... (875688).

The Girls Show 11.05pm C4 (above). Meet the new ladies. Breath of fresh air or miscalculated media construct? (360220).

**Radio**  
by Robert Hanks

The Maxton Festival 8.15pm R3. Beginning of a week of reports from a non-existent arts festival - the joke being that the assembled cultural pundits fail to realise that what they are criticising is, in fact, real life. Surreal, bitter and clever.

## Sunday Television and Radio

**BBC1**

6.50 **Abbott and Costello Meet the Killer, Boris Karloff** (Charles T Barton 1949 US). Rud and Lou fun-and-games set in a hotel (763402).

8.15 **Suenos - World Spanish** (4352570).

8.30 **Breakfast with Frost**. Paddy Ashdown sips orange juice with Frost, joined on satellite by George Bush (54841).

9.30 **The Big Question**. Mark Lawson quizzes Archbishop Desmond Tutu (S) (3278518).

9.45 **First Light** (S) (166599).

10.15 **The French Experience** (S) (1892131).

10.45 **The 11th Hour** (S) (91995).

12.00 **Countryfile** (S) (38228).

12.30 **On the Record** (88537).

1.30 **EastEnders**. Omnibus (S) (5374976).

2.55 **Survivors**. The last Ark (Steven Spielberg 1981 US). Harrison Ford's archaeologist superhero chases the Nazis for the Ark of the Covenant (S) (5693131).

4.40 **The Pink Panther Show** (9872402).

5.05 **Lifeline**. Gary Lineker appeals on behalf of the Sick Children's Trust (S) (4249082).

5.15 **Black Hearts in Battersea**. 4/6. Imaginative children's drama from the novel by Joan Aiken (S) (604334).

5.45 **News**. Weather (365605).

6.05 **Regional News** (713889).

6.10 **Songs of Praise**. Come Thora Hird talks to Sally Magnusson (S) (196006).

6.45 **Antiques Roadshow**. From Jersey (S) (317605).

7.30 **Pie in the Sky**. Richard Griffiths' breathless sleuthing restaurant becomes embroiled in a feud between his copper colleagues and a regular customer (S) (638860).

8.20 **As Time Goes By** (S) (95624).

8.50 **News**. Weather (925402).

9.05 **Alive and Kicking**. Lenny Henry plays an invulnerable-feeling drug dealer and Robbie Coltrane is the stoic unconventional therapist in this repeat of Al Hunter's 1991 drama. See Preview, p28 (46029421).

10.40 **The Lenny Henry Show**. New series of the big man's sketch show finds him on worse form than in the above drama. Trevor McDonald agrees to send himself up, while Eddi Reader provides a song (S) (907150).

11.25 **Married to the Mob** (Jonathan Demme 1988 US). Engaging enough comedy-thriller starring Michelle Pfeiffer, whose mobster husband Al Pacino is rubbed out by rival mafioso Dean Cain (S) (907150).

1.05 **Weather** (8931254). To 1.10am.

**BBC2**

7.30 **Children's BBC**. Rupert. 7.35 The Adventures of Skippy. 8.00 Playdays. 8.20 Grumpy. 8.35 Jackanory: Vicky Fox. 8.55 Felix the Cat. 9.10 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles. 9.35 Phantom 2040. 9.55 Highly Sprung! 10.25 Grange Hill. 10.50 Agnes and the Penguin from Mars. 11.15 As Seen on TV.

11.45 **Star Trek** (R) (1493889).

12.35 **Fantasy Football League** (R) (S) (6459889).

1.05 **Singled Out**. American dating game (3288084).

1.30 **Regional Programmes** (88711).

2.00 **Henry V** (Kenneth Branagh 1989 UK). Ker's ambitious filming of Shakespeare is bloodier and more gloomy than Olivier's exultant post-war version. A certain naivety in the filmcraft, but you can't fault the committed performances of Paul Scofield (the French king), Derek Jacobi (Chorus), Judi Dench (Mistress Quickly) and Brian Blessed (Exeter) (84932150).

4.15 **Sid Sunday**. The women's downhill from Cortina (6140470).

4.55 **Rugby Special**. Yesterday's opening matches in the Five Nations Championships (S) (1157711).

5.55 **Natural World**. Say 'hello' to the cephalopods, a group of molluscs that include squid, octopus and cuttlefish (S) (449155).

6.45 **The Big Trip**. Second visit to our exasperating energetic car-motors as they leg it to Guyana, Bangkok and Madrid. Helen and Alison in Thailand are topical after this week's grisly events (S) (315247).

7.30 **Timewatch**. The previously hidden extent of Stalin's role in the Korean War. See Preview, p28 (S) (636402).

8.20 **In Search of Power**. Geoff Mulgan travels to Sheffield to find out what powers consumers and employees really possess (507112).

9.00 **The Tourist**. Tomerlin's 50-year rise from fishing village to high-rise horror in the sun. See Preview, p28 (S) (344686).

9.50 **Another Foot in the Past**. Topical (S) (993624).

10.00 **Sarah, Plain and Tall** (Glenn Gould 1991 US). Which is how turn-of-the-century East Coast lass Glenn Gould describes herself when answering an ad from Kansas widower and father Christopher Walken in this gentle, well-acted version of Patricia MacLachlan's children's book (665808).

11.35 **Picnic at Hanging Rock** (Peter Weir 1975 Aus). Still at the turn of the century - St Valentine's Day 1900 - and three schoolgirls and their teacher go missing while out on a picnic. In Weir's enigmatic early film (357537). To 1.30am.

2.00 **The Learning Zone**. To 6.00am.

**ITV/London**

6.00 **GMTV**. 6.00 The Sunday Review. 6.30 News and Sport. 7.00 The Sunday Programme (50995).

8.00 **Disney Club**. There's advice, boys and girls, from fashion stylist Ashley Rossiter, and music from the Back Street Boys (S) (35361976).

10.15 **Link** (S) (7284537).

10.30 **Sunday Masters**. Including 11.00 Morning Worship from St Peter Mancroft, Norwich (CE) (S) (29808).

12.30 **CrossTalk** (83266).

1.00 **News**. Weather (28901860).

1.10 **Jonathan Dimbleby** (8922773).

2.00 **Yesterday's Heroes**. Lou Macari and Dennis Tueart (4315).

2.30 **The Incredible Hulk Returns** (Nicholas Corea 1988 US). Why? (15488808).

4.25 **Cartoon** (8932570).

4.35 **Murder, She Wrote**. A reporter arrives on Jessica's doorstep with new evidence on a 30-year-old mystery. He came to the right place (1140421).

5.30 **Local News**. Weather (362518).

5.50 **News**. Weather (524860).

6.05 **Rocky Horror** (Joe Johnston 1991 US). This Disney comic-strip fantasy deserved better at the box office. Perhaps it just lacked a star name, as Bill Campbell plays a 1930s pilot who stumbles across a rocket peck that enables him to fly. Timothy Dalton's smarmy actor and a host of Nazi secret agents also want to get their hands on the rocket (S) (70114841).

8.00 **A Touch of Frost**. A male prostitute is murdered (S) (8976).

10.00 **Lights, Camera, Action: A Century of the Cinema**. Or in Michael Aspel's case - lights, suncream, action - as the year-round tanned one continues to narrate this strangely selective 'history' of the movies. This week looks at sex and the censors with usual list of B-list has-beens (S) (1781).

11.00 **News**. Weather (378334).

11.15 **Splitting Image**. More latex satire stars for real laughs as Paula Yates, Quentin Tarantino and Andrea Turner turn up as easy targets (883353).

11.45 **Compass**. Madagascar (R) (384228).

12.45 **Girls Just Wanna Have Fun** (Alan Metter 1985 US). And you'll just want to go to bed, unless clichéd teen comedies are your cuppa. Does boast a better lead than it deserves, though, in Sarah Jessica Parker (149464).

2.30 **Love the Music**. Taj Mahal (738138).

3.25 **Star Trek: Voyager** (1995 US). The Star Trek: Voyager (1995 US). Fairly amusing take-off of the boys' blaxploitation movies of the early 1970s (Followed by Night Shift) (S) (722648).

5.05 **ITV Sport Classics**. To 5.30am.

**Channel 4**

6.25 **Britz** (R) (8562112).

7.20 **Take 5**. With The Magic Roundabout, Bush Tails, Natalie, Ivor the Engine and Jolly Bear (S) (3247518).

7.50 **The Magic School Bus** (S) (7393044).

8.20 **Hong Kong Phooey** (8523605).

8.30 **Stunt Dances** (43150).

9.00 **Biker Mice from Mars** (R) (4141353).

9.25 **The Secret World of Alex Mack** (4120860).

9.50 **Earthworm Jim** (S) (1684044).

10.15 **Saved by the Bell: The New Class** (174518).

10.45 **Rocco's Modern Life** (S) (173889).

11.15 **Rawhide** (581044).

12.15 **Mission Impossible** (879711).

1.15 **Football Italia**. Torino vs Fiorentina (63257605).

3.30 **The Grand National**. Animated impression of the (In)human horse race (2850315).

3.45 **Buffalo Bill** (William A Wellman 1944 US). Highly imaginative (in the wrong sense) telling of the William Cody legend, with Joel McCrea a tad uncharismatic in the lead role. Also with Maureen O'Hara, Linda Darnell, and Anthony Quinn - the latter two made up as Indians (453773).

5.30 **Hollyweird**. More on Louise's hair, in Monday's episode of the airbrushed teen soap (R) (S) (518).

6.00 **The Persuaders!**. Brett and Danny attempt to help a woman whose car has broken down beside the road. That's their story, anyway (66599).

7.00 **Time Team**. Tony Robinson and chums head off to Templecombe, Somerset in search of the base of the Knights Templar (S) (9082).

8.00 **Wired World**. See Preview, p28 (S) (5421).

8.30 **Welcome Home**. Homecoming (S) (5421).

8.30 **Homecoming**. Homecoming (S) (5421).

10.20 **Jack and Jeremy's Police**. Jack Dee and Jeremy Hardy spoof of Crimewatch. Tough ones, lads (R) (S) (257334).

10.50 **Night on Earth** (Jim Jarmusch 1991 US). Winona Ryder again, this time as the cabbie driving one of the taxis in one of the five different, typically Jarmuschian tales all happening in or around taxis at the same time in Los Angeles, Paris, Rome, New York and Helsinki. If you see what I mean (20104773).

1.10 **Shogun** (Chieko 1949 India) Comedy about a young poet in love with a young woman while he is loved by someone else. You know the score. In Urdu (31666648). To 3.40am.

**ITV/Regions**

**AREA 1**  
As London except 12.30pm James Bond Junior (83266). 2.00 Countrywide (4315). 2.30 News On Line (788637). 5.10 Day Free (659244). 6.05 Film The Roadblock (70114841). 11.50 Film Home Front (699112). 1.30am Hotel Babylon (603551). 2.15am Late & Local (46829). 3.15am Couch (48747984). 3.40am Shit (553982). 4.40-5.30am Film Two and a Half Dicks (529359).

**AREA 2**  
As London except 12.25pm West: West Eye View (3081315). 1.05 News On Line (788637). 2.00 The Munchers Today (4315). 2.30 News On Line (788637). 3.15 News On Line (788637). 4.30 News On Line (788637). 5.00 News On Line (788637). 5.30 News On Line (788637). 6.00 News On Line (788637). 6.30 News On Line (788637). 7.00 News On Line (788637). 7.30 News On Line (788637). 8.00 News On Line (788637). 8.30 News On Line (788637). 9.00 News On Line (788637). 9.30 News On Line (788637). 10.00 News On Line (788637). 10.30 News On Line (788637). 11.00 News On Line (788637). 11.30 News On Line (788637). 12.00 News On Line (788637). 12.30 News On Line (788637). 1.00 News On Line (788637). 1.30 News On Line (788637). 2.00 News On Line (788637). 2.30 News On Line (788637). 3.00 News On Line (788637). 3.30 News On Line (788637). 4.00 News On Line (788637). 4.30 News On Line (788637). 5.00 News On Line (788637). 5.30 News On Line (788637). 6.00 News On Line (788637). 6.30 News On Line (788637). 7.00 News 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## The big picture

Mon Père Ce Héros  
Sat 11.10pm BBC2

Gérard Depardieu (above) is such a successful French export that he must be in danger of being boycotted as a protest against nuclear testing. Not only does he shine in *Mon Père Ce Héros*, Gérard Lauzier's spunky comedy about a father who goes on holiday to Mauritius with his 14-year-old daughter (Marie Gillain) and has difficulty coming to terms with her growing up; but he also twinkles in the American remake (*My Father, The Hero*), produced two years later.

promise not to bang on again too much about the enjoyable Peter York's *Eighties* (Sat BBC2), suffice it to say that the film has been trying all week, to the point where York is appearing on *Right to Reply* (Sat C4) to defend his series against being "a waste of the licence-payers' money", for goodness sake. "Style over content" is the critical consensus (that mysterious process, like the growth of mould on cheese) - and this from people who praise *Homicide* to the rooftops. Oh well. I think there are two lessons to be drawn from all this: a) people don't like Peter York in the way that people don't like Loyd Grossman; and, more interestingly, b) that - despite the decade's reputation as a dizzy good-time gal - most people actually hated the 1980s and everything they stood for.

And so to Moscow, as Paul Lushman and his *Timewatch* (Sun BBC2) look to what every other TV historian has been doing for the last four years, it seems, and have a good poke round the Soviet archives. It's buried treasure, the last jigsaw pieces to fit into our picture of the 20th century, and Lushman goes looking for solutions to unanswered questions about the

Korean War. What was the extent of Stalin's involvement (massive), and was it true that American POWs found their way to the Soviet Union? Let's put it this way: they certainly never made their way out again.

Wired World (Sun C4) comes on all 1990s media techno-nerdish (*Wired* magazine is apparently unhappy about the title), but is in fact little more than that very 1980s product, *The Media Show*, with skates on. The first programme has reports on Kazakhstan's first home-grown TV soap opera (financed by Britain, it promotes capitalism in the area), militia media in the United States (videos include *Secrets of a Successful Sniper*) and a South African sitcom about a black family living next door to a white family (don't mention *Love Thy Neighbour*). An item on London's 24-hour gay and lesbian radio station Freedom FM is *The Media Show* all over.

An unusual dramatic co-production finds the BBC Community Programmes Unit getting together with the Justice For Overseas Domestic Workers campaign. The result, *A Secret Slave* (Sat BBC2), tells of the plight of a Singapore domestic worker

imported into Britain by a rich Dubai family - and then given unlimited hours for no pay. When she has the audacity to complain, a bonus arrives, in the shape of a thick lip, a few loose teeth and a bruised rib. Or, as The Home Office lawyer puts it: "They have a whole different cultural tradition about staff."

If you want to witness the genesis of Robbie Coltrane's character in *Cracker*, then there's a chance to see again Al Hunter's 1991 drama *Alive and Kicking* (Sun BBC1), in which Coltrane's unconventional drug therapist cures Lenny Henry's smack-head smack dealer with a dose of street wisdom and the power of football. Look out for a pre-stardom Jane Horrocks as a tart with a heart of melted-down syringe needles.

When *The White Room* (Sat C4) launched last year, the wisdom was that it was going to go the way of all the new music shows that have tried, with increasing desperation, to emulate the success of *The Tube*. It surprised all with its stripped-down toughness and its vigorous door policy. A new series begins tonight, with Blur and Robert Palmer headlining.



## The big match

The Five Nations Championship  
Sat 1.40pm BBC1

The opening day of the Five Nations Championship always cheers up those mid-winter blues. After lacklustre displays against South Africa and Western Samoa before Christmas, the pressure is on Will Carling (above) to rouse his troops in the intimidatory atmosphere of the Parc des Princes against France. Scotland's new captain Rob Wainwright, leading his team against Ireland, will also be under scrutiny after bloodless performances against Western Samoa and Italy.

# Saturday Television and Radio

## BBC1

- 7.25 News Weather (4656440).
- 7.30 Children's BBC: SuperTed. 7.35 The Artbox. 7.40 The Big Bang. 8.05 Willy Fog. 8.30 The New Adventures of Superman.
- 9.15 Live and Kicking. Meat Loaf is Andi and Emma's special guest (56547594).
- 12.12 Weather (6103681).
- 12.15 Grandstand. 12.25 Racing from Haydock: 12.30 The Premier Long Distance Hurdle. 12.40 Football Focus. 12.55 Racing from Haydock: 1.00 The Haydock Park Champion Hurdle. 1.10 News. 1.15 Rugby Union: Five Nations preview. 1.25 Racing from Haydock: 1.30 The Peter Marsh Steeplechase. 1.40 Rugby Union. Live coverage of France vs England (kick-off at 2pm). See *The Big Match*, above. 3.35 Rugby Union: Ireland vs Scotland. First-half highlights; live second-half coverage. 4.35 Skiing: the men's downhill at Wengen. 4.40 Final Score (14158353).
- 5.15 News Weather (4278594).
- 5.25 Local News. Weather (3208827).
- 5.30 Dad's Army (R) (954391).
- 6.05 Jim Davidson's Generation Game. Cockney Jim Davidson gets into Burns Night mood by dressing up in tartan. Another 1,000 votes fall to the SNP (S) (268402).
- 7.00 Noel's House Party (S) (507827).
- 7.50 The National Lottery Live. Now, a quick word about the much underrated Anita Turner - although she's off for a couple of weeks (with Dale Winton standing in). Whatever you think of her *Tatler* spread (not a lot), or the size of her income, the thing is that Anita's an absolute television natural. And if you don't believe me, think what this already puffy show is going to be like when Bob Monkhouse takes over. Bernice... the bolt (S) (221339).
- 8.05 Casualty. An asylum-seeker throws himself from a moving vehicle (209594).
- 8.55 News. Sport. Weather (Followed by National Lottery Update) (121932).
- 9.15 *Black Death* (Sheldon Larry 1992 US). When doctor Kate Jackson discovers that a young girl who died was suffering from bubonic plague, she enjoys to convince the Mayor and people of New York of the awful truth. Sub-Outbreak thrills (S) (568751).
- 10.45 Match of the Day. Manchester City vs Coventry City (S) (9218391).
- 11.50 *Cutter's Way* (Ivan Passer 1981 US). Hallucinatory post-Vietnam thriller in which mangled veteran John Heff teams up with Ivy League beach bum Jeff Bridges to expose and then shake down an oil tycoon they believe guilty of murder. A cult favourite that probably isn't one-tenth as meaningful as it thinks (269463).
- 1.35 Weather (200402). To 1.40am.

REGIONS. Wales: 4.55pm News on Saturday 5.25 Wales on Saturday. N. 2.40pm Rugby Union: Ireland vs Scotland. 5.25 Inside Ulster News.

## BBC2

- 8.05 Open University: Preparatory Maths for Science (4309488). 8.20 No Problem's Too Big (8902469). 8.45 Open Advice: Something for Everyone (9551575). 9.10 Climates of Opinion - Global Warming (2804575).
- 10.00 Nadan Nadia. Pakistani comedy starring Babra Sharif (S) (63557204).
- 11.50 Film 96 with Barry Norman. From last Monday (S) (5550914).
- 12.20 *The Yearling* (Clarence Brown 1946 US). Brown, the British director of *National Velvet*, created a genuinely moving story out of unpromising boy-and-animal material. A certain Claude Jarman Jr nicely underplays a boy who adopts a young fawn. Gregory Peck is good as his father, and Jane Wyman is excellent as the boy's unimaginative mother. See it and weep (7334356).
- 2.25 *Designing Woman* (Vincenzo Minnelli 1957 US). Would-be MGM froth, left earthbound by the heaviness of Gregory Peck and a muted performance by Lauren Bacall (Bogey died during filming). He plays a sports writer, and she is the fashion-designer he marries after a whirlwind romance (195488).
- 4.20 Best of Esther. Studio volunteers who have overcome an addiction to drink or drugs (R) (S) (5288020).
- 4.50 The Oprah Winfrey Show. An expert "reveals" the key to a successful relationship is sharing in each other's fun (7536198).
- 5.30 TOTP2 (S) (146285).
- 6.15 *A Secret Slave*. Drama about a Sri Lankan domestic worker in Britain. See Preview, above (S) (311662).
- 7.05 News and Sport. Weather (508730).
- 7.20 Scrutiny. Jane Corbin investigates the role of the Commonwealth in today's world (S) (692469).
- 8.05 The Trial. A Portuguese waiter is up on a charge of robbery in the Scottish High Court in this recycled series of real-life cases (R) (766204).
- 9.00 Knowing Me, Knowing You... with Alan Partridge (R) (2198).
- 9.30 Peter York's *Eighties*. Peter York's perfectly enjoyable and valid series (although you wouldn't believe it to read the critics; his sin seems to have been to mention the dreaded "E" word at all) continues, with the PR and marketing men and women who "presented" the decade. Bob Geldof, Paula Hamilton, Sir Tim Bell and Michael Dodds help out (17469).
- 10.00 *Our Friends in the North* 1/9. Second sitting for the first part of Peter Flannery's ambitious state-of-the-nation drama about four friends from Newcastle (S) (9457662).
- 11.10 *Mon Père Ce Héros* (Gérard Lauzier 1992 FR). Gérard Depardieu comedy in which the big man plays along with his daughter's outrageous lies about him. See *The Big Picture*, above (674117). To 12.55am.

## ITV/London

- 6.00 GMTV. 6.00 News. Weather. 6.10 Re-Wind. 6.40 Eat Your Words. 7.10 Barney and Friends. 7.45-8.55 Saturday Disney. The British bobsleigh team guest. 8.55 VR Troopers (2600204).
- 9.25 Teletext. On the set of the sci-fi series *Babylon 5* (4124846).
- 10.25 It's Not Just Saturday. Danni Minogue and Gareth Jones whip up a load of youngsters (S) (484444).
- 11.30 The Chart Show. Your chance to vote for your favourite video in this year's Brits Awards, you lucky people (R) (S) (47730).
- 12.30 *Platonic* (S) (24759).
- 1.00 News. Weather (73132339).
- 1.05 Local News. Weather (73124310).
- 1.10 Movies. Games and Videos (32837759).
- 1.40 *Agatha Christie's A Caribbean Mystery* (Robert Lewis 1983 US). Helen Hayes plays Miss Marple, investigating the death of a retired British army officer (93840643).
- 3.45 *Airwolf* (R) (370952).
- 4.45 News. Sport. Weather (3240285).
- 5.05 London Tonight. Sport (3899049).
- 5.20 New Baywatch. A Vietnamese refugee falls off the Malibu pier (S) (9382778).
- 6.15 *Gladiators: Battle of the Champions*. Muscled-bound fanatics tough it out in a three-cornered competition (805223).
- 7.15 Blind Date. Rebecca and Robin report back from Norway, as more contestants continue to prove the power of hope over experience (including Lottery Results) (S) (801407).
- 8.15 Beadle's Hot Shots. A new use for camcorders: parody your favourite TV shows and send them in to you-know-who. Sounds too grim to be missed (S) (198285).
- 8.45 News. National Lottery Update. Weather (568761).
- 9.00 P D James: A Mind to Murder. Recycled East Anglian sleuthing whose viewing figures should be helped by the presence of heart-throb Jerome Flynn. Roy Marsden is once again Commander Adam Dalglish (R) (S) (2466).
- 11.00 *The Dirty Dozen: The Deadly Mission* (Lee H Katzin 1987 US). Six soldiers are stuck in a nerve gas torture. Enter Telly Savalas and 11 others (S) (65952).
- 12.30 *Funny Business*. Jo Jo Smith introduces a comedy line-up that includes this year's Perrier Award winner, Jenny Eccle (52605).
- 1.00 *Pjani Party*. Pop duo Gemini are amongst the guests of Katie "The Word" Puckrik and her fellow gag chums (S) (9113082).
- 2.25 *God's Gift*. More men are judged by the all-women auditors (R) (6977624).
- 3.15 News (6254257).
- 3.20 American Gladiators (S) (3418112).
- 4.10 Shift (R) (2373421).
- 5.05 Coach (R) (S) (8572650). To 5.30am.

## Channel 4

- 6.05 *Sesame Street* (R) (2119136).
- 7.00 *Ulysses 31* (R) (38049).
- 7.30 Super Mario Brothers (R) (6344117).
- 7.40 First Edition. News stories made accessible to the young (R) (3621594).
- 8.00 *Trans World Sport* (34407).
- 9.00 *The Morning Line*. A preview of today's horse racing. (S) (36778).
- 10.00 *Britz* American football magazine (42040).
- 11.00 *Goatella Football Italia* (26204).
- 12.00 *The Late Late Show*. Irish inventions celebrated (S) (87730).
- 12.30 *The Girl in the News* (Carol Reed 1940 UK). Decent-enough thriller, in which Margaret Lockwood plays a nurse successfully defended by barrister Barry K Barnes, when one of her wealthy patients dies after pledging her money. And then it happens again (595020).
- 1.55 *Channel 4 Racing from Kempton Park*. 2.10 *Bic Lash* Shaver Hurdle (2m 5f). 2.40 *Bic Razor* Lazerette Hurdle (2m). 3.10 *Fulwell Hurdle* Chase (2m 4f). 3.40 *Bic Razor* Novices' Chase (2m) (S) (3869778).
- 4.00 *Last Train to Medicine Hat*. Trans-Canada train-journey documentary series (R) (S) (8088933).
- 5.05 *Rock On*. Omnibus (S) (2859514).
- 6.30 *Rise to Reply*. Peter York answers the charge that his BBC series on the 1980s is misguided and a waste of the licence fee - and travel writer Peter Chapman asks how objective popular holiday programmes are (S) (681).
- 7.00 *A Week in Politics* (Including Channel 4 News). Tony Benn and David Marquand discuss whether the party system is fragmenting (2681).
- 8.00 *Divine Magic: Witch Hunt*. Series tracing ancient myths, legends, mysteries and superstitions. The witch-hunts of the 16th and 17th centuries are under scrutiny tonight (S) (8001).
- 9.00 *Old Wives' Tales*. The bric-a-brac arrive at the manor house in rural Derbyshire belonging to boss Bill Peterson (192730).
- 10.05 *Father Ted*. Father Ted is told by Bishop Brennan to get a film banned, in the cult sitcom (S) (39049).
- 10.35 *Eurotrash* (R) (S) (385440).
- 11.10 *The White Room*. The stripped-down music show returns, featuring Blur, Robert Palmer, Little Richard, Babyfaced Buzz and acapella American soul band, Solo (S) (83124).
- 12.10 *Late Licence: Devil Man*. Manga nonsense (S) (39049).
- 1.15 *Twilight Zone*. A episode directed by Wes Craven (S) (66669).
- 1.45 *Basadass TV*. Transatlantic popular black culture explored by Ice-T and Andrea Oliver (R) (S) (6137).
- 2.15 *Big Girls Blouse*. Australian comedienne (564061).
- 2.40 *Beat Specials*. With McAlmont and Misty Oldland (S) (7391315). To 3.40am.

## ITV/Regions

- As London except 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (24759). 1.05 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 1.10 *The Big Bang* (32947136). 1.35 *A World of Wonder* (7668488). 2.05 *Airwolf* (3907391). 3.00 *News*. 3.05 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 3.10 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 3.15 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 3.20 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 3.25 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 3.30 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 3.35 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 3.40 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 3.45 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 3.50 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 3.55 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 4.00 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 4.05 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 4.10 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 4.15 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 4.20 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 4.25 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 4.30 *Regional News*. Weather (73124310). 4.35 *Regional News*. 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Peter Popham charts the decline in linguistic diversity as the world laments the loss of another Native American tongue

# The day a language died

This week, another language died: Carlos Westez, more widely known as Red Thunder Cloud, the last speaker of the Native American language Catawba, died of a stroke at the age of 76. With him passed away the Catawba language.

Anyone who wants to hear the war songs, the hunting songs and the religious chants of the Catawba can apply to the Smithsonian Museum where, back in the Forties, Red Thunder Cloud recorded a series of them for posterity. Some earnest folk might even take the trouble to learn some of them by heart. But Catawba as something that lived and breathed and developed organically is gone for good. Of the creatures alive on the planet, only Red Thunder Cloud's dog, which survived him and understood commands in no other tongue, still presumably has matches of Catawba rolling around his brain.

All of us have been alerted over the past 20 years to the damage that modern industry can inflict on the world's ecology; how the destruction of the rain-forest also brings about the death of untold species of plants and insects that the forest protects, and how insecticides and herbicides lead to the "silent spring" Rachel Carson wrote about in the Sixties.

Less obvious, but no less powerful, is the impact of a homogenising monoculture upon our languages and ways of life. We are witnessing the spread of English, carried by American culture, delivered by Japanese technology. We also are witnessing the hegemony of a few great, transnational tongues: Chinese, Spanish, Russian and Hindi. With their rise as tools of culture and commerce has come the deaths of hundreds of other tongues that are the losers in the competition for linguistic survival.

Scholars believe there are some 6,000 languages around the world. Not only is the richest plant life closest to the equator, but so is the richest linguistic life. The fecundity of nature means that tribes can survive in smaller areas in relative isolation beyond the reach of the outside world, so keeping their culture and language intact. But most of these

languages are spoken by very small numbers of people and, according to Gail Vines, writing recently in *New Scientist*, more than half of them could die out within the next 100 years.

Vanuatu is the language native to Vanuatu in the Pacific. But its fate is sealed: like Catawba (until this week), it is spoken by that island's only remaining native inhabitant. So it, too, is bound to die out. Many other languages will share its fate: a large proportion of the languages of Ethiopia are used by tiny numbers of people. Two speakers of the Ethiopian language Gafat were fine until a well-intentioned language researcher took them out of their

the Catawba tribe, and the language was not his mother tongue. But he was a frequent visitor to the reservation in South Carolina and immersed himself in the language. The songs he recorded for the Smithsonian helped to start a craze for native American music. In his attempt to spread word of the tribe's language and culture, he came as far as Britain, where in 1992 he erected a teepee in Edinburgh and gave demonstrations of story-telling.

Now he is gone and the language is dead – but what does it mean for the rest of us when a language disappears? When a plant or insect or animal species dies, it is easy to understand

ries of language, advanced by philosophers such as John Hume, were that words and ideas stood for sensations and feelings. It was only in the 20th century that theories of language became more complex and proliferated. Ludwig Wittgenstein, the Austrian philosopher, argued that language was essentially a public affair, not the product of something that happened in our brains. Noam Chomsky, the American academic, made a reputation for himself with the claim that we can only speak languages because our brains have an innate capacity to understand the underlying structure of a language. More recently Mark Pagel, a biomathematician in the Zoology department of Oxford University, has taken this idea further, claiming that learning a language brings about permanent changes to one's brain – changes at a physiological level. One example he gives is of the Japanese inability to distinguish the letters "l" and "r". All babies the world over, he says, can tell all sounds apart; so if Japanese adults cease to be able to differentiate certain letters, he says, "The brains of Japanese-speaking adults differ from those of non-Japanese speaking adults, and do so at a physiological level."

The theory lacks neurological substantiation, but one's own experience as a language learner is that to speak another language is to become another person. Who among those who have learned to speak French moderately well has not had the sensation of discovering a new personality, one to whom shrugs, hand gestures, and an urge towards precision come naturally?

Learning a language that is extremely remote from English, such as Japanese, is to take on a radically new identity. In Japanese, one discovers, it seems impossible to have the sort of hammer-and-tongs discussions that are easy in European languages. There are immense opportunities for vagueness, and great difficulties in being precise. There are many different ways of saying thank you and sorry, half a dozen different ways of saying "I", many subtle ways of expressing formality or intimacy, humility or arrogance, without saying anything of substance at all.



Celtic revival: Welsh is now taught as part of the national curriculum

Western Mail

churches, and as Sanskrit is still employed in Buddhism.

In Israel, however, it is now the universal language of everyday life; it has arisen from a 2,000-year sleep, once again to breathe, change, develop slang, accents and obscurities. The reason this has happened was the simple necessity of forging a nation out of the disparate ingredients that were "ingathered." Language – especially if it is already defined as the language of the tribe – is the only thing that can have that sort of binding function.

English played a similar role in binding together the polyglot, multicultural elements of the empire, and making a self-conscious entity of them. But while the engine of colonialism long ago ran out of steam, the momentum of its languages is still formidable, and it is against their tyranny that the smaller languages fight to survive.

Indeed, there are signs of a growing trend to defend regional languages as a way of defending regional identities against the onslaught of global culture. In our own backyard, the surviving Celtic languages still fight it out. In the last century, the proper thing to do with Welsh, it was generally agreed, was to stamp it out.

This century the decline of Welsh has been slowed and, arguably, reversed: from about 900,000 speakers at the turn of the century, the number has shrunk to half a million. But vigorous campaigning has meant that the numbers speaking Welsh has stabilised. More than 21 per cent of the population, according to a recent survey, speaks the national tongue; of that number, it is the mother tongue of 55 per cent. Most significantly, the use of the language among young people is now climbing again, thanks to its inclusion in the National Curriculum: in 1993/4, 78.4 per cent of pupils learned it as either first or second language.

This, then, is one language that is not going the way of Red Thunder Cloud and Catawba. But what difference does it make if you speak Welsh? How differently does one see the world? What is the nature of one's potential Welsh personality? Those are questions impossible to answer without learning it.

## Jo Brand's week

The Americans are building a holiday complex to be used by wealthy Arabs in Eritrea. It's a handy 45 minutes' flying time from Mecca, and is for the men to leave behind the restrictions placed upon them at home. Are Arab women going to have a corresponding knees-up and throw caution to the winds? Of course not. A separate complex is being built for women and children, where they will be dumped into the care of an all-female staff, while their men go for it in style at the boys' hotel. You can be sure American businessmen will respect the cultural differences of others when there is cash involved. Lots of liberal people bite their tongues about the activities of Muslims, even though they can see that women are treated like second-class citizens, because they don't want to interfere in years of religious tradition. Well, we are all entitled to an opinion and I think this project is Victorian, machronistic and macho. Let's just hope Boutin doesn't pick up on the idea.



101 Dalmatians: modern morality

Given the media attention paid to the increasing disintegration of our society and the attendant negative moral effect on children, one could almost believe that all the little blighters are drug-sodden, lawless, aggressive monsters who are sexually active before they can manage their nine-times table. So it was reassuring to see a children's show in Cardiff last week and discover that the good old traditions of boozing the baddies and encouraging the goodies were still there. The show was *101 Dalmatians*, and my friend Helen had the joy of playing Cruella De Vil. As the human-doggy stars of the show

searched frantically for their puppies, a plaintive little voice shouted: "They've gone to Suffolk." A budding stakeholder and no mistake.

I, too, am buckling under the strain of the ferocious way the press pack chases for stories and pictures. As I sat in a hotel in Cardiff with some friends last weekend, the night manager of the hotel sidled up shifty and asked for a word. He informed me that someone from the *South Wales Echo* had tracked me down and wanted a few words, but acting on his own initiative, the aforementioned manager had sent him away. How am I going to cope with this huge onslaught?

Extra driving examiners are being taken on to handle the rush of learners who want to pass their test before written tests start in July. Who can blame them? I always felt that the information regarding stopping distances and the like was hanging by a thread in my brain. However, at least I do know that stopping distances are not five feet, which many drivers on the motorway seem to assume. Perhaps a personality test would be more appropriate: it's always those with the personality of Attila the Hun who loom right up close behind you, ignoring safety in favour of giving rein to stupid Death Race 2000 antics. If only teaching



them a lesson didn't involve getting mangled oneself. I'd have a whale of a time practising my emergency stops.

Doctor Who is to be resurrected one more time for a feature film starring one of the McGann brothers. I read recently that, although there had been seven Doctor Whos, there have been about 30 lovely female assistants. I wonder why that should be? We women must be four times more disposable than men.

A district court in New Mexico has halted a buffalo hunt at the behest of American Indian and animal rights groups. The hunt was intended to eliminate nine old bison who can "no longer chew their food", and to tackle



Learner lessons: how about personality tests?

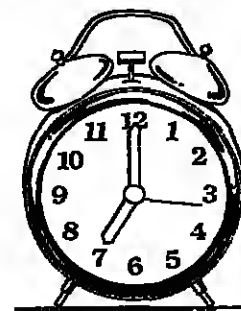
the problem that there are "far too many bulls and not enough cows". Perhaps we could get the hunters over here to sort out our judiciary instead.

A recent piece of research conducted in Germany shows that when Germans were offered another national identity, hardly any of them picked Britain, preferring Switzerland or Sweden, and traipsing through Japan, Italy, America and France before they got to us. This isn't much of a surprise, given our attitude to them, which consists of a firm belief that Germans ought to go on holiday to throw their weight and towels around. Yes, some are like that, but perhaps we need to look to our own record before we start casting aspersions in their direction. The *Sun* is always peppered with insults, the Tory party is filled with paranoia about Germans and my sister-in-law, who is German, has not received the politest of welcomes in a number of pubs over here. Germans seem to think we are a poverty-stricken little nation (not far wrong). In fact, my brother's mother-in-law, thinking we were really poor over here, once offered to send me a food parcel. I said yes. Any food always gratefully received.

A Canadian photo-processing company has worked out a way to etch out a person from a photograph without leaving a mark and has put this technique to good use for divorced couples who do not want to be reminded of their errant spouse. What a strange thing to do. I would have thought pinning the photo up on the wall and throwing a few darts and maybe some ageing spaghetti at it would have been much more fulfilling.

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## The way is still clear for a tyrant and a fraud

It was the largest fraud in modern British corporate history. The crime was blatant: the theft of more than £400m from the Maxwell pension funds. The culprit was obvious and well known. The prosecution had an open and shut case. Sadly, there was one insurmountable obstacle: Robert Maxwell, the mastermind of the fraud was dead.

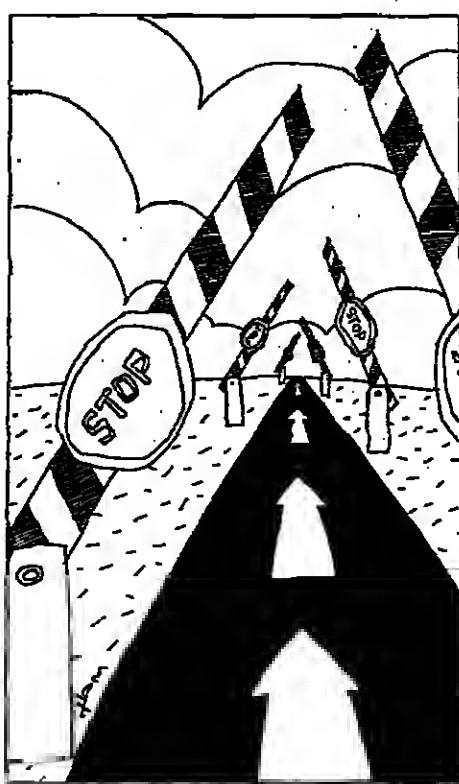
So, instead of Maxwell himself being put on trial, his underlings in-chief, two sons - Kevin and Ian - and Larry Trachtenburg, a former business advisor, were called to account for what happened. They were charged with raiding the company pension fund to prop up Maxwell's failing empire. We will probably never know what went through the jurors' minds as they acquitted all three yesterday. But, by the end of the trial, it is fair to assume that the jury saw them as the victims, not the perpetrators, of a corporate tyranny that threatened to rob so many people of their pensions. They accepted the contention that Maxwell had kept secret from his lieutenants the way that assets belonging to the pension fund were being illegally used to bail out the company.

Robert Maxwell was a terrifying individual. Kevin told the court: "I was in awe of him as a child. I was frightened. The domination was in part physical, part charismatic, and he also dominated by virtue of his success. He was capable of being extremely charming to people, he was capable of being winning, but he was also capable of verbal brutality in meetings, public dressing-downs not only of his children but also his senior managers."

Maxwell was a dictator, operating in an environment where no-one dared to confront him. It is not surprising that Robert Maxwell was so at ease with the authoritarian governments of eastern Europe. He found his natural home in the modern corporation, one of the last bastions of unfettered power, where the usual rules of democratic societies - accountability, openness and checks on power - are often weak if not waived altogether. Who would dare question Maxwell when he was founder, chief executive, chairman, court of appeal and arbiter of all?

It would probably have been very neat for many people if the Maxwell sons had been convicted yesterday. The whole affair could then have been written off as an evil family conspiracy. There will be some who will feel cheated by the acquittals, who want to see the Maxwell family pay. Yet the acquittals help us focus upon the significance of the fraud for the way our companies and pension funds are run. Robert Maxwell did not act alone. There were a string of accomplices who are still at large. Those accomplices are the blatant and easily correctable weaknesses in the way large companies are governed. Maxwell was able to commit his crime because he was able to exploit these shortcomings. Maxwell's crime was a gross abuse of power. The only way to ensure such crimes cannot be committed again in future is to ensure such abuse of power is not possible.

As a result, Maxwell still casts a long shadow over corporate life. He was able to continue to commit his crimes over many years only because several watchdogs failed in their task of pro-



tecting the interests of ordinary people, in this case, pensioners.

The roll call of institutions that might have taken action to prevent Maxwell is long and illustrious. Back in 1971, a Department of Trade investigation concluded that Maxwell was unfit "to exercise stewardship of a publicly quoted company". The court heard that Maxwell's accountants, KPMG, knew in 1982 that Robert Maxwell was using pension fund investments as collateral for his takeover bids. Coopers & Lybrand, another firm of accountants, denied in court having known for a decade that the tycoon was moving assets around his empire.

Whatever warning signals there may have been, Maxwell remained in charge not only of a major company but of the pensions of thousands of people. The root of the problem was the untrammelled power Maxwell had as chairman of his empire. The economy needs strong and dynamic entrepreneurs, with the drive and vision to create businesses. However, our publicly quoted companies should be run in a professional and trustworthy way. Seen in the light of the Maxwell fraud, the Cadbury reforms to corporate governance, which would strengthen the role of independent directors, take on a great significance.

Yet the reforms introduced after this scandal would not prevent another tyrant doing what Maxwell did. The new Pensions Act offers some protection - from next year, pension funds must be able at all times to meet the pension entitlements of members. Some members of the fund must be appointed as trustees. And if a fund

is rendered insolvent, a levy on the rest of the industry will meet its liabilities.

But these controls would not stop another Maxwell. The Government should have required appointment of an independent custodian for such pension schemes and stopped employers from playing any role in administering them. That would have removed the temptation to use pension fund assets to support the company. Similarly, the act should have insisted on much greater transparency about the way these funds are managed. Instead, the Government has endorsed the paternalistic culture of occupational pensions, which is so clearly inadequate for protecting ordinary individuals.

Against these repeated failures before and after the Maxwell scandal, the Serious Fraud Office's failure to secure convictions is relatively minor. The SFO was right to prosecute. The jurors came to their verdicts after serious thought - they took nearly two weeks to deliberate, indicating the seriousness with which they viewed their role. The case was not, as some would argue, too complicated. It did not hang on a technicality, but on whether or not the jury accepted that the defendants' word that they knew nothing of the fraud. In short, it is wrong to conclude that acquittal is a mark of the failure of ill-judged prosecution.

Could more corporate tyrants like Maxwell emerge? Yes. Could such a tyrant keep his dealings secret? Certainly. Have we done enough to protect pensioners and workers from such abuses of corporate power? Not at all. The horse is long bolted and still the stable door is swinging on its hinges.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

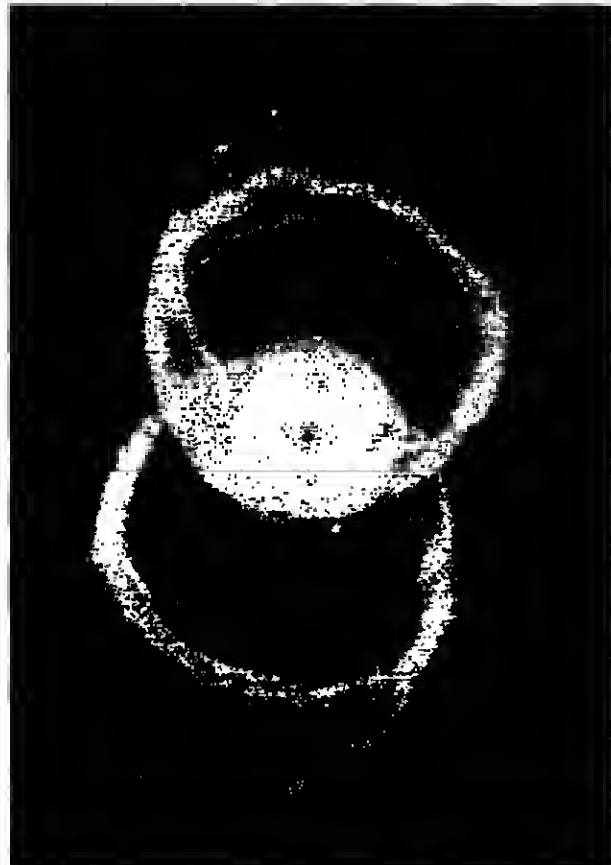
### British astronomers at the final frontier

From Professor K. A. Pounds  
Sir: I would like to congratulate you on the excellent coverage of several remarkable discoveries made recently with the Hubble Space Telescope ("In a faraway corner of the universe ...", 18 January). Since its out-of-focus optics were corrected a year ago, the HST has begun to realise its full potential to obtain the clearest and deepest astronomical images ever seen. My present purpose is to point to the substantial role of British astronomers in the HST project. One of the two cameras on board the spacecraft was provided by the European Space Agency to a British design, while the solar arrays were built by British Aerospace. More importantly, it is far from the case that "few" British astronomers are using the HST. In fact, many of our university groups are active in HST programmes, and year-on-year the UK continues to win the largest share of HST observing time of any country outside the US. The international standing of our astronomers is an asset we must use to maximum effect in enhancing public interest in science, especially among the young. Projects such as HST, the Galileo probe to Jupiter, and the recently launched ESA missions - *Solaris* to study the Sun, and *Iso* using infrared radiation to probe regions of star and planetary formation - can be expected to provide many exciting discoveries over the next few years.  
Yours faithfully,  
KEN POUNDS  
Chief Executive and Deputy Chairman  
Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council  
Swindon, Wiltshire  
18 January

am puzzled by an apparent paradox.  
If the Big Bang theory is correct and the universe came into being approximately 15 billion years ago, expanding outwards from a single point, then looking back in time we ought to be seeing a very limited volume of matter and space and eventually the single point itself the nearer we get to the 15 billion year "limit". Instead of that, the picture we are presented with at an enormous distance in time and space is a huge volume of galaxies millions of light years across.  
Can anyone explain the paradox, and how far do we have to

look back before we see the start of the Big Bang itself?  
Yours faithfully,  
LONDON PEGINGTON  
Baildon, West Yorkshire  
17 January

From Mr Len Clay  
Sir: So, the Hubble telescope reveals 1,500 galaxies, each containing up to 100 billion stars, all streaming away from Earth at 19,000 miles per second (68,400,000 miles an hour). All I can say is, thank goodness they are not heading this way!  
Yours faithfully,  
LEN CLAY  
Fiskerton, Newark



MyCn18, a young planetary nebula about 8,000 light years away, seen from the Hubble Space Telescope. Photograph: AP/Nasa

### How to live a life

From Mr Stephen Howarth  
Sir: It was very refreshing to read among the discussions of the existence of heaven and hell. Fr Dobie's sensible and sensitive observation "I cannot and will not believe in a God who is more unpleasant than I am." (Letters, 16 January.)  
Something very similar was said equally well by a contented non-Christian, the antiquarian Sir William Hamilton, husband of Emma Hamilton and (probably compliant) cuckold of Lord Nelson. All his life, Hamilton used religious terms to express his personal creed, and one day distilled his tolerant wisdom into three short, memorable sentences:  
My study of antiquities has kept me in constant thought of the perpetual fluctuation of everything. The whole art is really to live all the days of our life, and not with anxious care disturb the sweetest hour that life affords - which is the present. Admire the Creator, admire all His works, to us incomprehensible, and do all the good you can upon earth, and take the chance of eternity without dismay.

Amen to that.  
Yours sincerely,  
STEPHEN HOWARTH  
Shelfton,  
Nottinghamshire

### Time for romance

From Mr Michael Ricketts  
Sir: The Brief Encounter clock has not returned to Waterloo (photograph, 13 January). The clock (which is two-sided) has never left Camforth station, where it has languished since starting in the 1946 classic.  
Camforth, the location for many of the station exteriors, is no longer a romantic rendezvous, and the clock hangs forlornly, its hands frozen in time. Perhaps Railtrack will now consider restoring the Camforth clock, and return to "Milford Junction" something of its former glory.  
Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL RICKETTS  
East Molesey, Surrey  
13 January

### Star signs

From Mr Chris Westwood  
Sir: I, like Ted Draper (letter, 18 January), was intrigued by the road signs relating to Sixties pop groups' stories. There is another side to this, however. "Hatfield and the North" and

"Kilburn and the High Roads" (featuring the young Ian Dury, later of Ian Dury and the Blockheads fame), were groups named after road signs.  
Yours,  
CHRIS WESTWOOD  
Leeds  
18 January

### Dungeon duchess

From Mr David Smith  
Sir: In the event of the Duchess of York being unfortunate enough to find herself imprisoned for debt, I am sure the prison authorities would ensure she was treated in the

same way as any other inmate. However, if on temporary release - a hospital visit or to the shops - it would surely be appropriate for the shackles to be made from a noble metal.  
Yours faithfully,  
DAVID SMITH  
Tatfield, Kent

### The West and Chechnya

From Mr Ainars Sinka  
Sir: Your editorial "Chechnya is not the West's cause" (18 January) is wide of the mark. The Chechens are not a "clique", they are a nation with a common territory, history, language and religion, who are as fully deserving as the English of their own state. Moreover, they are a nation who have suffered most horribly at the hands of the Russians. The Communists wiped out half their number and encouraged them to flee their land by throwing Chechen women and children, alive, on to a burning pyre. The word "federation" implies a conscious decision to join or remain part of a common state; the Chechens have never chosen to be part of the Russian "federation".

The continued existence of the West depends upon general acceptance and affirmation of certain universal truths, among them democracy, liberty of the individual and self-determination. Stating that Chechen independence is against the interests of the West helps to undermine those universal truths.  
Yours faithfully,  
AINARS SINKA  
New Malden, Surrey  
18 January

### A blood service to be proud of?

From Mrs Eileen Chandler  
Sir: Does Angela Robinson, the medical director of the National Blood Authority, really feel she "has a blood service to be proud of" (Letter, 16 January)?  
I am a blood donor living in a small market town where there are many other would-be donors. Many of them, however, have no transport, and the nearest centre for donation is a 15-mile trip. The blood collection buses are on a Sunday and the hours are very few and far between, requiring long waits and large fares, which some donors simply cannot afford. Petrol, too, is expensive.  
At one time we were promised that a special bus pick-up would be arranged. We waited an hour for this in drizzling rain. It did not turn up.

Most of the volunteers are busy, hard-working people. But because the centre covers such a large area, there are often long queues of people waiting to donate. Should they be expected to spend hours of their time waiting around simply because of the poor organisation of the NBA?  
Yours sincerely,  
EILEEN CHANDLER  
Uppingham, Leicestershire  
16 January

### Middle-class vote

From Mr Ian Butterworth  
Sir: I am somewhat mystified by the current Conservative obsession with the votes of the middle classes. I seem to recall Mr Major speaking of a "classless society".  
Yours faithfully,  
IAN BUTTERWORTH  
Sandhurst, Surrey  
18 January

From Mr Malcolm Abaza  
Sir: You are wrong to suggest that "Chechnya is not the West's cause" (18 January). It is of considerable importance to the West that, if Russia is to cite international law in defence of its "territorial integrity", then it must be held accountable for flouting international law with respect to human rights and the excessive use of force.

While hostage-taking by the Chechens cannot be condoned, it should be remembered that the Russians in taking Grozny killed more than 20,000 civilians (most of them ethnic Russians) with their "precision" bombings. To condemn the former as an "act of terrorism" while excusing the latter as justifiable in order to maintain existing boundaries seems hypocritical.

Events in Chechnya cannot be safely ignored or swept under the carpet any more than events in the Balkans prior to 1914 could. The repercussions of the Chechens' drive for independence will play a large part in shaping the outcome of the presidential elections in Russia, and for this reason alone Chechnya should be of vital concern to the West.  
Yours faithfully,  
MALCOLM ABAZA  
London, SW8

### Inner-city churchfare

From Mr Geoff Marsh  
Sir: Among those funding branches of broad-based organisations - the social action movement analysed so well in "The rises of do-it-yourself democracy" (18 January) - Andrew Marr listed the Church of England.  
In fact, it is the Church Urban Fund - an independent charity - not the church establishment that has given grants to these community-based groups in several areas of England over the past five years. Approximately £250,000 out of the total £21m that we have contributed to inner-city projects of all kinds has been directed to them.  
Yours faithfully,  
GEOFF MARSH  
Acting Secretary  
Church Urban Fund  
London, SW1  
18 January

### Wallpaper wheeze

From Dr I. R. McLaughlin  
Sir: The success of wallpaper in paste in removing old wallpaper (Letters, 13 January) does seem incredible, but there is a simple explanation.  
To get paper off the wall, the old paste must be softened. You can use water to do this, but it must soak through the paper to get to the paste. Unfortunately, it runs down the wall and off the paper. Any water that does manage to wet the paper evaporates quickly. The problem reduces to one of keeping the water on the paper. Wallpaper paste itself does this, as it contains a lot of water and it sticks to the paper!  
Yours faithfully,  
IAN R. MCLAUGHLIN  
Dursley, Gloucestershire

### Complain and we'll listen

From Mr Martin O'Reilly  
Sir: I am dismayed by the suggestion in your editorial "When lawyers let us down" (17 January), that dissatisfied clients should not bother to complain about their solicitors. Such language leaves consumers with the impression that they have no form of redress and ignores the thousands of cases each year that are dealt with to the satisfaction of complainants.  
The survey findings were indeed disappointing and we do not view them with any level of complacency. But they need to be taken in context. The results refer to matters investigated between 18 and 24 months ago. Since that time, significant changes have been made at the Solicitors Complaints Bureau. We are committed to continuous improvement, to the fair and effective investigation of complaints and to the maintenance of standards within the profession.  
The solicitors' profession cherishes its right to self-regulation and will do everything in its power to ensure that any new regulatory body is dedicated to providing a satisfactory service to all its users.  
Yours faithfully,  
MARTIN O'REILLY  
Acting Director  
Solicitors Complaints Bureau  
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire  
18 January

### Daniel's dresser

From Mrs Anne N. McLeod  
Sir: Why all the surprise about Daniel Day Lewis helping to build sets for *The Crucible* (Diary, 17 January)?  
As a pupil at Bedales, woodwork was his main subject. Apparently, the Welsh dresser he made during his stay is still at the school.  
He attended an interview with the furniture designer John Makepeace in 1975 with a view to being taken on as a pupil. However, he was accepted by Bristol Old Vic and the rest is history.  
Yours faithfully,  
ANNE N. MCLEOD  
Stockport  
13 January

### Year-round buns

From Mr Garnet Langton  
Sir: Your correspondent, Christine Smith, seems to be surprised that hot-cross buns are being sold in January (Letter, 10 January).  
My wife has been buying them all the year round at Kwiksave in Bournemouth. They have a distinctive flavour which we enjoy, so why restrict them to Easter?  
Yours sincerely,  
GARNET LANGTON  
Bournemouth  
10 January

### Fuel for thought

From Mr Robert Vincent  
Sir: One can be sure that when the massive 9p per gallon cut in the cost of petrol is restored some time in the future after the price war, it will then only increase by a mere 2p per litre.  
Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT VINCENT  
Andover,  
Hampshire  
17 January

## DAVID AARONOVITCH

### Femmes fatales



They're coming for Cherie Blair. The fascination with her waist-cincher and poodle boots is over. She will no longer be given marks out of 10 for the quality of her loving stare at her triumphant husband. On Wednesday she said something vaguely political and crusading, and now the knives are out.

It started with one of those younger Tory MPs for whom the term "pipsqueak" might have been invented. Nigel Evans, the red-faced renegade from Ribblesdale, accused Cherie of being the "Hillary Clinton of British politics", for having expressed a view on anti-discrimination legislation. Yesterday, the *Daily Mail* and the *Sun* took up the theme. Cherie had committed the sin of Mrs Clinton and had better watch out. Tony should take her in hand.

Before we go any further, I must make an admission: I have the hots for Hillary. She is bright, sassy, determined, witty and domineering. Like many British men, I yearn for the spark of firm government and feel that somehow the First Lady might provide it. Her name itself, Rodham Clinton, is redolent with a robust female sexuality. After she had had her way with me, she could always tell me about health reforms while I recovered.

By the way, if I have any such feelings about Cherie, I am keeping them to myself. It would only take five minutes for an angry man to drive from Islington round to my house.  
One of the things I particularly admire about HRC is the fact (so decried by others) that she has re-invented herself. The wonderful emergence of the classy, clear-sighted blonde butterfly from the dull, brown, myopic caterpillar is a beacon of hope in a decaying world. If I could get away with it and had \$10,000 handy, then - with help from Nicole Parhi, Clarins and a Harley Street plastic surgeon - I would look different, too.

So I'm a fan of powerful women. But many are not. Quite the reverse. Though Cherie, as an opposition leader's wife, has remained more or less uncathed, Hillary is loathed with an extraordinary intensity by

many right-wing American men - and not a few British ones, either. Their anger seems to engulf them.  
Take William Safire, veteran columnist with the respectable *New York Times*, who decided to be so incensed by a series of rather pathetic evasions and small fibs on her part that, last week, he described Mrs Clinton as "a congenital liar". This is the same Bill Safire who, 20 years ago, was a spin-doctor for Richard Nixon, the only president this century to be forced to resign (for lying).

What explains this incredible hostility? What has Hillary done to them? And what of their British counterparts fear that Cherie will do, to make such ominous comparisons? Some disingenuously claim that dislike of Hillary springs from her unelected influence on her husband. This is, as another grande dame might have it, halcyon. There was no demonstration of Nancy Reagan for subjecting her husband to the influence of an astrologer. Nancy examining the entrails of chickens to determine the future of arms control policy? That's okay; kinda feminine, really. Hillary brilliantly taking on a congressional committee over health reform? Dreadful. How dare she!

So the "undue influence" argument is a smokescreen. Something else is going on to excite such gut hatred on the part of right-wing men. It's the idea of wives being overtly powerful, exercising direct influence through position and argument, rather than through wheedling and flirtation. Table talk, not pillow talk. These husbands live a kiddy's life away from metaphorical castration.

After all, what does it say about them if the women can hold down good jobs, bring up bright kids, and (if necessary) survive without the dubious assistance of the verbal bullies and emotional louts who title themselves as the heads of the household? That's why they're out to get you, Cherie. Add why some of us will defend you to the last. Whether you need it or not.

### QUOTE UNQUOTE

You look wonderful with your clothes on - the Princess of Wales on being introduced to the *Baywatch* star David Hasselhoff.  
I am middle of the road, middle brow, middle class and Middle England - Sir Christopher Bland, newly appointed chairman of the BBC's board of governors.

I am not a believer in people choosing their successors. They usually choose someone like themselves, but worse - Marnaduke Russey, outgoing BBC chairman.

My idea of heaven is moving from one smoke-filled room to another - Peter O'Toole, actor.  
Lady Thatcher can get out of a train at 5am looking as if she has just come out of the beautician's, whereas I can come out of the beautician's looking as if I have just got out of a train at 5am - Ann Widdecombe, Home Office minister.

Margaret Thatcher failed in her declared intention to wipe socialism off the agenda of British politics. Yet we find Tony Blair and New Labour wiping socialism off its own agenda - Arthur Scargill.  
Museums and galleries are not elitist institutions. More people visit museums than go to soccer matches - Lord Grossman, TV presenter and chairman of the Campaign for Museums.

APR 10 1994



# The lesson is, the City never learns

They knew he was rotten, but no one stopped Robert Maxwell. It could all happen again, says **Jeremy Warner**

It seems that nobody is to be held criminally liable for Britain's biggest and most dramatic post-war financial scandal, the collapse of the Maxwell empire and the plundering of more than £400m of pension assets. Although criminal charges are outstanding against a further two defendants in connection with the Maxwell affair, the Serious Fraud Office is unlikely to proceed with them after yesterday's unambiguous verdicts.

In the eyes of the law we can hold but one man responsible for one of the greatest financial crimes of the century.

Even in death, Robert Maxwell dominated the trial of his two sons, Kevin and Ian, much as he dominated and blighted them in life. It was always going to be difficult for the Serious Fraud Office to pin this great scandal on anyone but the dead tycoon. Even as failure to target successfully anyone who could be held culpable must surely spell the

**You would have thought the City might have avoided him**

end for what from the start has always looked a wholly inadequate organisation.

On the one hand the SFO is accused of inability to secure convictions – such as in the case of the financial adviser Roger Levitt. On the other it is charged with abuse of power and distortion of evidence in its efforts to convict – as in the case of Asil Nadir. The SFO experiment in the investigation and prosecution of fraud has plainly not worked and it is time for the Lord Chancellor to start administering the law. Whether the jury system has also failed the nation in its search for retribution is a more difficult question to answer. That debate will rage long and hard.

It may seem bad enough that the system is unable to hold anyone to account for this shocking episode in British corporate history. Worse, however, is the thought that we may not adequately have learnt from it, either.

Maxwell and the other fraudulent collapses of the early 1990s exposed a framework of corporate governance, accounting standards and pensions regulation so weak and vague as to be almost non-existent. Since the Maxwell collapse, there has been a determined effort in government, the City and the professions to put in place new law, rules, regulations and codes of conduct that will stop such abuse happening again.

Will it work? For a time, maybe. But whatever the safeguards, when a senior executive in a position of trust and responsibility is hell bent on fraud, there is not much you can do about it.



**Big Bob:** Maxwell was exposed as a liar, cheat and bully – and judged unfit to run a public company – years before his death

Photograph: Brian Harris

Memories are short, particularly in the City, where reputations are as easily bought and sold as any commodity. The proof of that is Maxwell himself. Robert Maxwell was officially exposed as a liar, cheat and bully many years before the can of worms opened up by his death. In the early Seventies, Board of Trade inspectors found him unfit to be a director of a public company over a business scandal in which he displayed all the traits which led to his nemesis.

The inspectors described Maxwell as a man of great energy, drive and imagination. Unfortunately, they went on, "an apparent fixation as to his own abilities causes him to ignore the views of others if these are not compatible". The concept of a board being responsible for policy was alien to him, the inspectors said.

Maxwell regarded his stewardship duties fulfilled by displaying the maximum profit any transaction could be devised to show.

In reporting to shareholders and investors, the report concluded, he had a "reckless and unjustified optimism" which enabled him on occasions to disregard unpalatable facts and to state what he must have known to be untrue.

With the evidence of the Board of Trade before it, you would have thought the City would have avoided Maxwell like the plague. From the start, he appeared congenitally unable to understand the difference between his own and other people's money, mixing his private and public company affairs in a way that was at best highly contentious and at worst fraudulent. The evidence of this was not just malicious rumour and hearsay, as Maxwell always tried to make out; it was down there in black and white in a Board of Trade report.

For many businessmen this would have been a fatal setback. Maxwell's rehabilitation in the City is a story as remarkable as for many it is also embarrassing and unfor-

giveable. If there is a lesson to be had from it, it is that the City doesn't learn.

After 10 years in purdah, during which he ran a successful, but private publishing group, Pergamon, Maxwell was able to reingratiate himself with the City and once more take advantage of the opportunities afforded by the capital markets. His big break came from NatWest, which asked him to try to revive the ailing and publicly quoted British Printing. He later won plaudits for his cost-cutting measures at Mirror Group. His achievement may always have fallen a long way short of his claims, but Maxwell was none the less able to present himself once more as an industrialist and entrepreneur of talent.

While institutional investors, the people who manage our savings and pensions, always remained deeply suspicious – with some good reason – of Maxwell's two main publicly quoted companies, Maxwell Communications and Mirror Group – the

same could not be said of the bankers and image makers. With big commissions and fees on offer, they backed him to the hilt, funding a reckless dash for growth by acquisition from the mid-Eighties onwards. Only a few City houses refused to deal with him altogether.

Today, both commercial and investment bankers are less easily taken in by the accomplished charmer and enthusiast. This more cautious attitude may say more about the recession than Maxwell, however. Come the next boom, it is highly likely that the old loose ways will return, complete with a whole new generation of "rough diamonds" to exploit them.

But some things have become more difficult as a result of Maxwell. The pensions fraud at the heart of the affair prompted extensive pensions law reform. While these reforms did not go as far as some would like, they do make a repeat of Maxwell's thievery considerably more difficult.

Not impossible, however, for the new legislation steers clear of a key reform: a requirement that pension assets be managed by a custodian independent of the employer. With sufficiently compliant trustees and managers, it might still be possible for the over dominant executive to plunder the pension fund for his own purposes. Certainly there is nothing to stop the pension fund being required to invest heavily in the employer's own company, an abuse not confined in Maxwell during the rolling Eighties.

The other two areas of reform, accounting standards and corporate governance, again make a Maxwell sequel harder but not impossible. Audit standards and practices have largely outlawed the creative accounting techniques of the Eighties. With the number and size of negligence law suits mounting daily, including some massive

**Corporate life remains one of the bastions of secrecy**

ones relating to the Maxwell collapse, auditors have considerably strengthened their procedures.

Then there is the whole area of corporate governance, the way in which public companies are directed, controlled and made accountable to their shareholders. Born out of the excesses of the Eighties the Cadbury committee was already working on new codes for directors when the Maxwell scandal broke. Maxwell gave fresh impetus to the search for ways of limiting the powers of the autocratic chief executive.

As the committee found, however, devising methods of control which do not severely limit the ability of management to act swiftly and effectively in the company's commercial interests is far from easy. Companies run along the lines of a medieval fiefdom may be things of the past, but the entrepreneurially directed company is not, because the risk reward of such companies is much higher, many investors positively prefer them that way.

Furthermore, in an age of transparency and the free flow of information, corporate life remains one of the last great bastions of secrecy. The Byzantine complexity and obfuscation that characterised the Maxwell empire is still practised in many major corporations.

Maxwell was an extraordinary man and the set of circumstances that allowed him to get away with what he did, perhaps unique. But could a different version of the same thing happen again? Yes, of course it could.

PROFILE: Lord Young of Dartington

## Father of the Third Age

The left's great mover and shaker is having a baby – at 80. By **Angela Lambert**

The news that a man is to father a child at the age of 80 is unusual. When that man is a well-known and respected public figure, famous for his work on family life, it is certain to provoke a good deal of press interest. When his wife is more than 40 years younger than her husband (as she is bound to be) the interest is avid.

Hence the interest this week in Lord Young of Dartington and his third wife, 37-year-old German-born Dorit Uhlenhuth, who, it turns out, is expecting their child in the summer. As Michael Young, a political thinker, sociologist and member of more than 30 institutions, he is arguably the most active and influential Labour over and shaker of the last half century, yet few could put face to his name.

Lord Young, who has made a public comment so far, is said to be embarrassed by the press attention, but not in the least by the pregnancy. But then, throughout his 80 years, he has ways been an iconoclast. He introduced Dorit to his life as the future Lady Young at his 80th birthday party at November, held at his long-term headquarters in Bethnal Green. They were married the same month in an East End church. A crown of candles was held above the bride and room as they took their vows, after which they lit sparklers and wrote their names in the air. "He did say he wanted to have another child," says a "friend", "but no one took it particularly seriously. He'll take a tremendous father. He's very good with his own children."

The coming baby means that Lord Young will have a child 50 years younger than his oldest

sibling and 35 years younger than his youngest sibling.

Michael Young was born in Manchester in 1915 to unusual, artistic and sometimes unreliable parents. His father was an Australian violinist turned music critic, his mother an actress and painter. The family moved to Australia when Michael was eight, but when his parents' marriage broke up he returned with his mother to England, to live in bohemian chaos in Chelsea. From this, and a succession of unsatisfactory schools, he was saved when he was 14 by his Australian grandfather, who offered to pay his fees to Dartington Hall, a progressive school in Devon, on condition that he learn fruit farming.

Run by Leonard and Dorothy Elmhirst, who became Michael's spiritual, ideological and very nearly adoptive parents, Dartington Hall had 26 pupils, including Bertrand Russell's children. Michael was blissfully happy there. The Elmhirsts were utopian educationists, but also extremely rich and well connected. By the age of 17, Michael had stayed at the White House and dined with most of the Cabinet. Extremes of wealth and poverty were already well known to him by the time he went to the London School of Economics.

In 1939 he joined the Labour Party, and after a spell on the influential think-tank Political and Economic Planning (PEP) he became in 1945 secretary of the Labour Party's own research department, playing a major role in drafting the party's 1945 election manifesto.

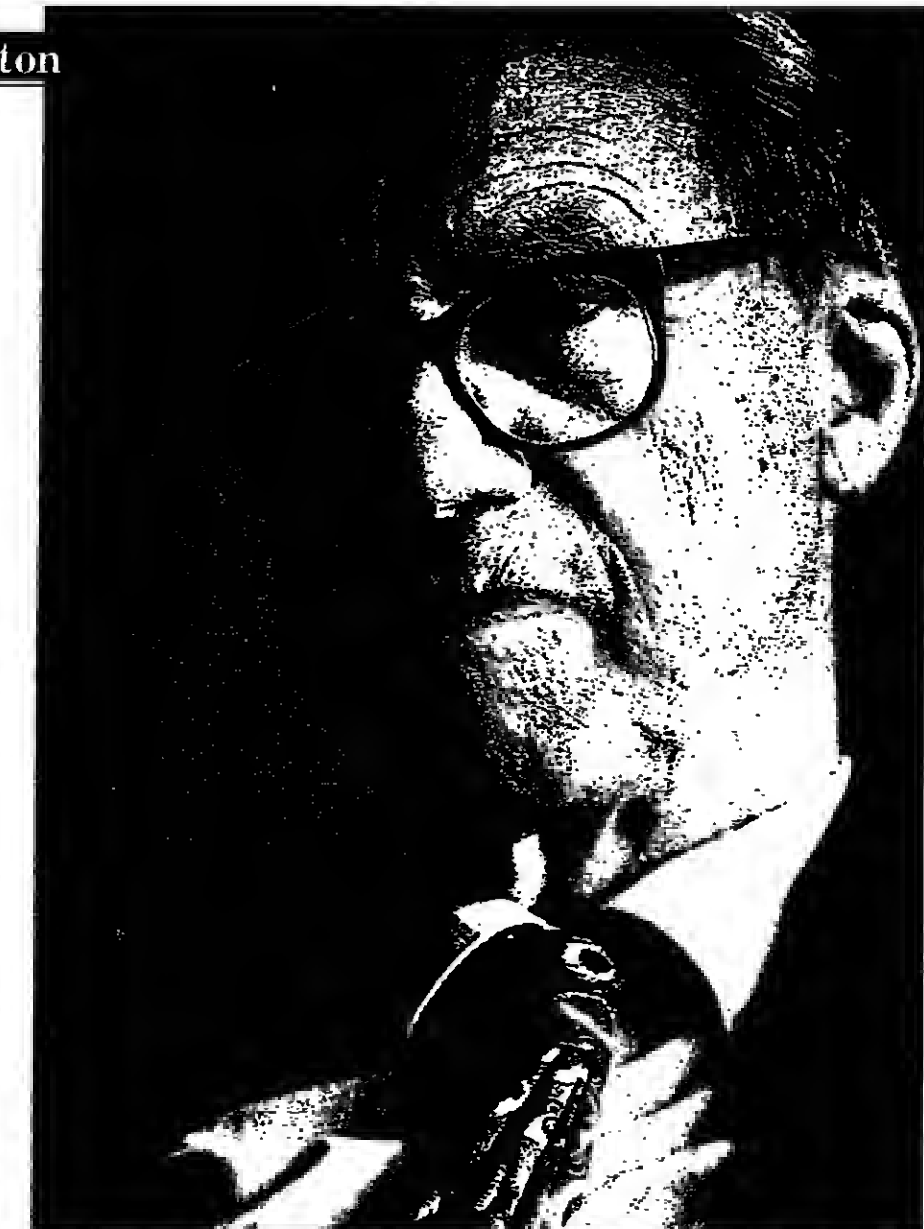
He was expected to go into Parliament but, as he later explained, "I'm not an extrovert personality and I knew I

wouldn't like a life standing on platforms making speeches." It is this lifelong reticence which accounts for the fact that he is relatively little known. But behind the scenes he has been one of the great postwar influences on left-wing thinking and social policy.

A meeting with Edward Shils, a young American sociologist, pushed him towards sociology, then a relatively new field of study. Young developed an abiding interest in non-state action and the function of communities. Out of this came his first classic and best-selling work, *Family and Kinship in East London*, written with Peter Willmott and published in 1957. Its clear, elegant jargon-free prose and vivid stories about human nature and working-class life made it both easy and fascinating to read. When critics accused him of romanticising his portrayal of East End life, Young replied, "I hope I have." The early Sixties were a time of hope, and he was one of its finest exponents. His next book, *The Rise of the Meritocracy* (1958), was to be crucial to Labour's abolition of the 11-plus exam and the rise of comprehensive education.

But the intellectual work, the writings and research are only a small part of Young's achievements. What is remarkable is the vigour and practicality with which he translates his observations and theories into projects. Somebody who worked closely with him over many years says: "He is a much-loved, admired and respected figure. He was always very good at getting his way, which meant that people sometimes got very cross with him."

A mere handful of organisations he inspired, launched



Iconoclast: a remarkable thinker born of unusual parents

Photograph: Herbie Knot

and often headed would be: first and foremost, the Institute of Community Studies in 1953; the Consumers' Association in 1956 and *Which?* Magazine in 1957; and the Advisory Council for Education (ACE) in 1959. He was one of the great moving forces behind the foundation of the Open University in 1969.

In 1978 the then Labour Prime Minister Jim Callaghan made him a life peer. He was by then 63, but any idea that he might be drifting gently towards retirement was soon proved wrong. Indeed, he confounded some of his oldest colleagues by joining the newly launched SDP in 1981, and setting up the Twynney Society, its ideological think-tank in 1982. In the same year he was one of the prime movers behind the University

of the Third Age. Then in 1987, aged 72, he founded the Open College of the Arts; in 1993 the National Association for the Education of Sick Children; and in 1994, after the death of his second wife Sasha, the National Funerals' College to promote alternative funeral services.

Recently, upon hearing that Bengali patients were dying in the London Hospital because they couldn't talk to their doctors, Lord Young started a telephone interpreting service, offering instant communication in 140 languages. There is no sign of an end to his inventiveness.

But through all his work runs one connecting thread: his belief in the value of the family. A close friend said: "His big concern nowadays is that fam-

ily life is getting to be in a bad way, especially for children. There is less stability in marriage now. The extended family is no longer as effective as it was – it's in a very shaky condition, and that's his great concern. He passionately believes in the value of the nuclear and extended family. As far as his own household is concerned, he's always tried to be a dutiful husband and father but his work and his passion to improve the world is dominant."

Nowadays Lord Young has returned to the Labour fold. Lord Longford – an even older colleague, who sits with him on the Opposition benches in the House of Lords – when told of the forthcoming baby, said characteristically, "Oh jolly good show!" And so, surely, say all of us.

*He did say he wanted to have another child, but no one took this particularly seriously*

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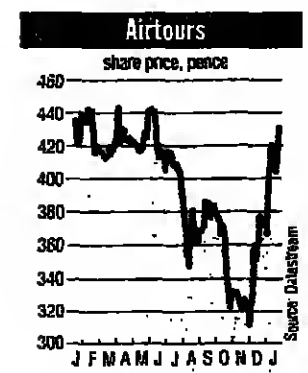


## US group eyes 30% stake in Airtours

SIMON PINCOMBE

Carnival Corporation, the world's largest cruise ship operator, is in talks with Airtours over a co-operation deal that could lead to the US tour operator buying a near-30 per cent stake in the Manchester-based package tour and holiday company.

Airtours shares - already up 36 per cent on bid speculation over the past two months - jumped a further 33p to 433p yesterday, eventually forcing an announcement from the company. Airtours said the talks might lead to Carnival taking a stake of less than 30 per cent.



in Airtours through a subscription for new shares and a partial offer to all shareholders. At yesterday's price a 30 per cent stake would be worth approximately £151m.

Airtours' directors were not available for comment yesterday. But Michael Arison, the chairman of Carnival, said he did not expect the acquisition to dilute the group's earnings per share. However, he could give no assurance that any agreement would be reached. Carnival, based in Miami, Florida, operates the famous Holland America line as well as Windstar Cruises and about

19 cruise ships that sail to Alaska, the Caribbean, the South Pacific and the Mediterranean. It has said several times that it wants to enter the European market but its last attempt failed when a partnership with Greece's Emporiki cruise lines was terminated last April.

Airtours - which retails holidays through its 701 Going Places outlets as well as running its own charter airline - has been keen to expand outside the traditional European destinations. It now offers tours to Sweden through its Scandinavian Leisure Group and is reported to be negotiating to buy the Danish operator Spies. In 1994 it bought Sunquest Vacations in Canada, which rivals claim has been reasonably successful.

But it is Airtours' highly successful move into sea cruising - it owns two cruise ships working the Mediterranean - which is thought to have attracted Carnival's interest.

Any deal between the two companies will in reality be thrashed out between the respective chairmen who each hold large blocks of shares in their companies. David Crossland, Airtours' chairman, accounts for nearly 27 per cent of the share capital, with the board in total speaking for 33 per cent. Michael Arison, the Carnival chairman, has 10 per cent of the cruise group. The two are reported to be similar personalities who might be able to work together.

City analysts said yesterday it was impossible to take a sensible view of the announcement until the details of the prospective deal were published. "The offer to existing shareholders could form a disguised rights issue," one analyst said. While useful to fund further acquisitions, Airtours



Miami advice: David Crossland, Airtours' chairman, will be at the heart of any deal with Carnival

Photograph: Geraint Lewis

does not need the money. It has approximately £80m of debt against a market capitalisation of £450m.

Yesterday's announcement comes a month after Airtours

reported its first profits decline in eight years. Along with the other UK travel operators Airtours had a bleak year in 1995, a victim of the hot weather and a past policy of chasing mar-

ket share by slashing prices. Profits fell 22 per cent to £59m after a profit warning in August, with profit per customer crashing from £19.85 to just £9.37. The company had been

expected to lift profits from £72m to £85m.

Airtours faces a critical three months in the post-Christmas booking period. It has cut capacity for next sum-

mer by 14 per cent to 1.8 million. Bookings to date, however, are very slow.

The shares closed yesterday at 433p, up 33p on the day. Comment, page 19

## Exports push car output to a 21-year high

RUSSELL HOTTEN

UK car production reached a 21-year high in 1995 due to a sharp rise in exports. Fourth quarter figures published yesterday by the Central Statistical Office show that the annual total reached 1.532 million vehicles, 4.5 per cent up on 1994.

Cars for export jumped 20.3 per cent to 744,608, though production for the home market slumped more than 7 per cent.

Ernie Thompson, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said the export figures were particularly encouraging. "But the outlook for 1996 will much depend on a stimulus to domestic market output."

The figures dispelled some of the gloom that followed release of the 1995 sales numbers showing that the UK market grew by just 1.8 per cent to 1.945 million cars.

News that production is high may help to explain why the Government was so reluctant to assist the car industry by introducing "scrappage tax" in the Budget to help boost sales.

In 1974 the number of cars produced in the UK was 1.534 million, with a record 1.747 million produced in 1972. From that high point, production figures spiralled down, reaching a low point of 908,906 in 1984 before beginning a slow climb back.

The influx of Japanese manufacturers - Nissan, Honda and Toyota - led the way back, and increased productivity and quality made UK-built cars better value.

The growth in cars produced for export was helped by the fall in sterling in the first half of the year, and by efforts made by car manufacturers to escape the sluggish UK market.

But analysts warned that manufacturers risked cutting off further export growth by raising prices. According to CSO figures, car price inflation was 4.5 per cent in December, compared with the RPI rise of 3 per cent.

Ian Shepherdson, economist at HSBC Greenwell, said manufacturers had consistently forced up prices for the past two to three years. He said recent pay rises, such as the Ford and Vauxhall deals, would mean further car price rises.

He said: "Several European markets remain depressed, with France and Germany possibly getting worse. Manufacturers will be selling into a shrinking market, and they will not have help from the exchange rates."

Yesterday's CSO figures showed that commercial vehicle output for 1995 totalled 233,001 - a rise of 2.38 per cent on 1994.

Unlike car production, it was the home market that was the star of the commercial side - rising 6.32 per cent while export production fell 3.32 per cent.

## Railtrack to receive profits from property

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR  
Transport Correspondent

Railtrack's flotation received a boost yesterday when the rail regulator, John Swift QC, decided that the company could keep 75 per cent of any windfall profits from property development.

The decision to allow the company to keep the lion's share of a property portfolio that some analysts estimate could be worth £2bn follows a fierce lobbying campaign by Bob Horton, Railtrack's chairman.

He argued that without a decent reward there would be no incentive for Railtrack to put effort into maximising the returns from its property, which includes a number of main stations. Sir George Young, the transport secretary, also backed the idea of putting what Railtrack's advisers call a "property kicker" into the sale, so that the company can be marketed as a high-yielding utility with the added spice of potential property development profits.



Sir George Young: Adding spice to Railtrack's appeal

Mr Swift, who is responsible for setting Railtrack's track access charges, issued a consultation paper suggesting a three-to-one split with the rail operating companies for Railtrack's extra income from property sales.

Last year, Mr Swift intimated that Railtrack would only be able to keep a small amount of these windfall profits but he is anxious to ensure that Railtrack is attractive in the private sector. He appears to have bowed to Railtrack's arguments that the company needs to be allowed to retain a substantial proportion of the net extra income in order to encourage further sales and property developments.

He said: "Railtrack's property is held for the benefit of its customers, passengers, other users of the network and shareholders. The 75:25 share of any additional proceeds would provide the most powerful incentive to develop its property assets and build a stronger business without compromising its duties to concentrate on and develop a better railway infrastructure."

Railtrack's routine property sales have already been included in Mr Swift's assessment of Railtrack's access charges and therefore the announcement only relates to unexpected or particularly lucrative sales.

Railtrack will be allowed to carry over any shortfall in previous years to offset against these windfalls. The formula will come into play once the excess income from property is more than 0.1 per cent of Railtrack's fixed-track access charges in a particular year.

## Austin Reed warns of halving in profits

TOM STEVENSON  
City Editor

Austin Reed, the upmarket clothes retailer, warned that profits in the year to the end of this month would be less than half the previous year's. Its shares, already poor underperformers over the past year, slumped a further 11p, or 7 per cent, to close yesterday at 151p.

The warning came as confirmation of the gloomy trading picture painted in October, when the company announced a fall in interim profits for the six months to August. It was the latest in a mixed bag of retail trading statements over the

past few weeks, which have seen optimism from the likes of Argos, Dixons and Boots tempered by cautious comments from Sears, Storehouse and Bodyshop.

Colin Evans, chief executive of Austin Reed, said: "As we announced last October, our autumn season's business began rather slowly, and we expressed caution about the final outcome for the year. In our retail business, difficult trading conditions have continued during the remainder of the season, with turnover no more than level with the previous autumn."

He warned that the need to discount clothes and the lim-

gering financial impact of a badly received womenswear range had squeezed gross margins by three percentage points during the year. That would mean pre-tax profits, which reached £7.3m a year ago, would be no better than £3.5m and may be as low as £3m.

Austin Reed has run a successful womenswear business for 15 years, focused on business suits at the top end of the market. But last year it decided to target the casual market, failed to convince its customers and ended up with too much stock that it has had to discount heavily to shift.

Chris Thomson, finance di-

rector, said the womenswear ranges, under the new divisional head Susan Monks, were returning to the classic business suits on which Austin Reed made its name. He confirmed, however, that even with better-designed ranges trading remained extremely difficult.

The group's performance has also been adversely affected by the costs of a restructuring exercise in the manufacturing operation at Crew.

Despite these problems, however, the final dividend is to be maintained at 4p for the year. Even at the lower level of profitability it will be covered by earnings per share.



Austin Reed

## Finance director joins Laporte exodus

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Laporte, the chemicals group that saw its shares plunge in December after a shock profits warning, yesterday announced the unexpected resignation of Bill Hoskins, finance director. Mr Hoskins, who was on a two-year contract at an annual salary of £170,000, has agreed a severance payment of around £150,000. He could receive a

further £28,000 from exercising options at the current price. "The shares dipped 5p to 66p after yesterday's announcement. It is the third blow to hit Laporte since Jim Leng, former chief executive of Low & Bloor,

took over last September. In November, Ken Minton, Mr Leng's predecessor, resigned after five weeks after moving up to the chairman's position and in the following month Laporte saw its shares crash 173p

to 610p after it announced an £85m restructuring provision and a profits warning. But Mr Leng yesterday strenuously denied that the latest news had any connection with his shake-up of the business. "I

know people will try to connect the issues, but that's not where I am coming from on them," he said. "Bill left after Christmas and he wanted to make the break clean."

Mr Hoskins, 43, had been with the group for 13 years. Mr Minton left after 14 years as managing director and chief executive. Laporte is searching for a replacement for Mr Hoskins.

Charles Wigoder, the founder and chief executive of Peoples Phone has been ousted following the decision by the company to postpone its £150m to £200m flotation. The role of Mr

Wigoder, who has about 16 per cent of the mobile telephone services company, will be filled by his deputy, Keith Parrish, who becomes managing director.

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## Dollar jumps as sterling takes a beating

The dollar jumped yesterday, climbing above DM1.48 to reach its highest level against the German currency for four months, writes Diane Coyle.

The pound fell sharply, losing more than a cent in value against the dollar.

It declined to \$1.5105 from the previous close of \$1.5230 in the aftermath of Thursday's surprise base rate cut.

Sterling suffered from the

Bank of England's silence about the interest rate move, which dealers took to suggest that monetary policy had fallen victim to politics.

The dollar gained in strength in anticipation of today's meeting of G7 ministers and central bank governors in Paris.

It received a further boost from figures that suggested that the economy remained on course for a soft landing. A

modest upward revision to GDP in the third quarter and a bigger-than-expected rise in employment last month dented hopes that the US Federal Reserve would cut interest rates as early as the end of this month.

"The market is comparing the economic fundamentals of the US and Continental Europe," Lawrence Hathaway, at investment bank UBS, said.

Recent figures suggesting the

German economy is slowing more sharply than expected have raised hopes the Bundesbank will cut interest rates before long. The G7 meeting is expected to welcome the dollar's strength against the mark.

Some currency dealers believe the industrial countries might co-operate to send the dollar higher - leaving it open to a setback next week if there is no official communiqué.

STOCK MARKETS							
<b>FTSE 100</b> 		<b>Dow Jones</b> 		<b>Nikkei</b> 		<small>FTSE Small Cap Index</small> 	
<small>*Data Japan only. Graph of 10th hours</small>							
Indices							
Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)	1995/96 High	1995/96 Low	Yield(%)	
FTSE 100	3748.40	-0.30	-0.0	3748.70	2954.20	3.81	
FTSE 250	4073.00	+15.40	+0.4	4080.10	3300.90	3.60	
FTSE Small Cap	1858.80	+1.40	+0.1	1858.80	1482.40	3.77	
FT Small Cap	1958.13	+7.91	+0.4	1957.11	1676.61	3.14	
FT All Share	1631.55	+1.82	+0.1	1631.53	1403.23	3.72	
New York *	5164.09	+39.74	+0.8	5216.47	4402.09	2.29	
Tokyo	20355.76	+4.26	+0.0	20669.03	14685.41	0.751	
Hong Kong	70754.06	+227.00	+2.2	17664.09	6497.93	3.529	
Frankfurt	2395.76	+17.86	+0.8	2396.76	1910.96	1.871	

Source: FT Information





## COMMENT

You can see why nuclear power failed to inspire private sector financing for a new power station: the Government will probably sell British Energy for less than the £2.5bn cost of Sizewell B.

## Nuclear confidence trick will not fool investors

Nuclear power is dead, long live nuclear power. British Nuclear Fuels this week came close to calling British Energy a traitor to the cause of power from the atom by "trying to distance themselves from their heritage". The fuel processing company now sees itself as carrying the banner forward into the 21st century.

The cause of the explosion was British Energy's decision last year to abandon plans to build a new nuclear power station, ahead of the flotation in June.

Not only has an appalled BNFL offered to take over the sites at Sizewell and Hinkley that British Energy will leave empty, it has offered to organise the finance and start building new nuclear power stations itself early in the next century.

This little spat must be read on two levels. Managers in nuclear power tend to believe in their product with almost religious fervour, a reaction perhaps to spending their careers in an embattled and unpopular industry. Until last year's decision by British Energy to back away from new construction, the nuclear protagonists were remarkably successful in defending their interests. They are furious at being let down by, of all people, the senior managers of the flagship nuclear company.

The enemy was not, as once widely assumed, the environmental movement, but accountancy and economics. You can see why nuclear power failed to inspire private sector financing for a new power station: the

Government will probably sell British Energy for less than the £2.5bn cost of the newest of its stations, Sizewell B. What a bad bargain that project proved for the taxpayer.

The other argument made for nuclear power is that it is all very well saying there is a glut of cheap gas now, but it takes a decade to design and build a new nuclear station. Cheap gas will not last forever, oil prices may rise and global warming may prompt heavy taxes on fossil fuels. So we must replace old stations, as they close, with new ones, even if they are currently not economic.

Stripped of the detail, this is an argument for paying over the odds for an expensive insurance policy. This is a confidence trick the nuclear industry has pulled off on the Government for 40 years. Private investors are unlikely to give BNFL the time of day.

## Home truths needed from G7 meeting

A head of today's meeting in Paris of finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of Seven leading industrial countries, the dollar has continued to make gains against the mark. US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, did his best to talk up the greenback by saying that a strong dollar was good for the US.

Following the success of the "orderly reversal" of the yen bubble last year, it would

be foolish to write off the ability of the G7 to target the mark. But the signs are it will prove a much tougher nut to crack.

Joint central bank intervention, notably last August, certainly brought about a sea change in sentiment towards the dollar. But the main reason for the 25 per cent depreciation of the yen since its high of last April is that the Bank of Japan opened the monetary floodgates, intervening on a massive scale to purchase dollars and driving down interest rates to a record post-war low.

In short, warm words were matched by cold deeds. The German Bundesbank could, in theory, follow suit. However, it is most unlikely to do so, since Germany is not facing a crisis of the same magnitude as threatened to engulf the Japanese economy. The German economic slowdown is serious, but it does not combine the same lethal components of debt and deflation that spelt depression.

Even so, there are worrying signs that the European slowdown could prove more stubborn and protracted than is generally anticipated. The fragility of the world economy is going to be a key feature of the G7 policy discussions – and not before time.

Despite concerns about the sustainability of the US recovery, higher-than-expected employment growth in December in the US suggests that the Fed has successfully engineered a soft landing for the US economy. Japan, too, is expected to grow by almost 2 per cent in 1996. The main problem for G7

policymakers is the black cloud of economic weakness hanging in particular over France and Germany.

At its centre is that small town called Maastricht. The programme of fiscal retrenchment needed to comply with the deficit and debt criteria for European monetary union have pushed down demand. The obvious antidote, an easing in monetary policy, has been undertaken too gingerly to offset the shortfall in activity.

European leaders still think they can muddle through to EMU, hoping for an economic upturn that will allow compliance with the key Maastricht objective of a deficit/GDP ratio of 3 per cent or less.

But before long, the markets may decide the game is up, pouring funds into the German mark as hopes of convergence evaporate. Only when that happens will European leaders really get round to addressing the stagnation of their economies. At best, the G7 meeting will help if finance ministers from the US, Canada and Japan deliver some home truths to their European counterparts.

## Carnival offer a drop in the ocean

Evidently Carnival Corporation thinks it has spotted the next big holiday trend in Europe – cruising. If it hasn't, then yesterday's announcement from Airtours of a

potential co-operation deal with the world's largest operator of cruise liners poses more questions than it answers.

For months now the Airtours share price has been driven by the prospects of a full bid from the US tour operator. News that the Americans might take a stake of less than 30 per cent had the City clamouring for hard facts.

Unless there is a hidden agenda, Airtours does not need the money (about £151m at yesterday's prices). And while Carnival has long said that it wants entry into the European market this deal looks, on the face of it, an odd way to go about it.

A straight co-operation agreement between the two companies would afford each partner no more than a drop in each other's trading ocean.

The US cruising market traditionally draws only 10 per cent of its customers from outside the US, offering a limited opportunity for Airtours. And industry specialists see difficulty in attracting Americans over in any numbers for Airtours' Greek and Spanish package deals.

Rather, the answer may lie in the success of Airtours' two cruise ships currently plying the Med.

That prompted Thomson, the market leader, to follow suit by chartering its own ships. Yesterday it reported bookings for 60 per cent of its cabins this summer. Carnival could not have had a clearer sighting of which way way the tourist fleet is heading.

Endgame: Last-ditch attempt to stave off hostile takeover dismissed by Granada

## Forte set to announce White Hart hotels sale

MATHEW HORSMAN and JOHN SHEPHERD

Forte was poised last night to announce the imminent sale of its White Hart hotel chain for £125m in a last-ditch effort to see off the hostile £3.9bn bid from Granada.

Industry sources said the negotiations ended in an advanced

## Who backs whom

## Big broking houses stating a preference

Collins Stewart Granada  
Credit Lyonnais Laing Granada  
Dalwa Granada  
Flemings Granada  
Goldman Sachs Neutral  
Kleinwort Benson Granada  
Lehman Brothers Forte  
Merrill Lynch Granada  
NatWest Securities Granada  
Nikko Securities Forte  
Nomura Granada  
Panmure Gordon Granada  
Paribas Forte  
Sutherland & Partners Forte

stage and that confirmation could come over the weekend.

A Forte spokesman said: "It is our stated intention to sell the White Hart chain. We do not comment on market rumours. Any announcement will be made through the appropriate channels at the appropriate time."

An attempt to sell the 72 White Hart hotel properties failed last year when the two sides could not agree over price. A management group is believed to be favoured as buyer. One analyst said a price of £125m was at the high end of estimates, and could provide Forte with support in its bid to remain independent.

But most observers continued to believe that Granada had the edge. "It will take more than one deal at this late stage to swing the odds in Forte's favour," one analyst said. Granada dismissed the prospect of a White Hart sale. "No doubt Sir Rocco has a few rabbits to pull out of his hat,"



Backs against the wall: (from left to right) Keith Hamill, Sir Rocco Forte, and Sir Anthony Tennant, preparing for the final act of the Granada takeover drama next week

Charles Allen, chief operating officer of Granada, said: "But if they do anything at all, they will be selling with their backs up against the wall."

There was also speculation that Whitebread would announce an increased bid for Forte's restaurants and budget hotels, which is dependent on the failure of Granada's offer. The current price, £1.05bn, could be raised by as much as 20 per cent and still be earnings-enhancing, informed sources suggested.

Peter Jarvis, Whitebread's chief executive, is scheduled to meet Carol Galley, head of

Mercury Asset Management, on Monday. MAM is the largest shareholder in Forte and Granada, and is also a large owner of Whitebread shares.

Ms Galley discussed the bid with Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, yesterday morning, while Sir Rocco Forte, Forte's chairman, met her in the afternoon. MAM is widely seen as holding the swing vote.

Meanwhile, Granada received the support of one of the City's leading independent houses, Kleinwort Benson, which recommended the cash-and-shares offer. Analysts Paul

Slattery, Greg Feehely and Michael Savage said: "There is less risk for Forte shareholders in accepting the immediate value on offer from Granada."

Kleinwort Benson suggested before Christmas that Forte was worth about 380p a share. Since then, the strength of Granada shares has lifted the value of its bid to about 386p a share. But the analysts warned that Granada's bid, including £50m paid to the Council of Forte and £300m in "potential loss of value on asset disposals," raised the bid costs to about £1 per Granada share.

## BNFL pledges to revive nuclear power industry

MARY FAGAN  
Industrial Correspondent

State-owned British Nuclear Fuels has made a surprise pledge to revive nuclear power in Britain and may take the lead role in seeking the billions of pounds needed for new generating stations, it emerged last night.

Addressing a meeting of nuclear engineers, BNFL's chief executive, Neville Chamberlain, openly attacked the Government – its shareholder – as "parochial and short-sighted" for refusing to support further nuclear plants.

Mr Chamberlain's outburst will throw into confusion the current debate over the nuclear industry in the UK, which will come under the spotlight again next week when the Trade and Industry Select Committee continues its inquiry into the privatisation of British Energy, the main UK producer of nuclear energy.

The message from BNFL follows the recent decision by British Energy to abandon plans for two new reactors at Sizewell and Hinkley. Mr Chamberlain said: "Other players are trying to distance themselves from their heritage. It is clear that BNFL now is the nuclear industry in the UK."

Martin O'Neill, chairman of the Select Committee, said last night that BNFL's stance could affect the privatisation as an expanding state-owned nuclear generator could become a com-

petitive threat. "I would want to hear whether BZW and other advisers have views on this," he said.

Mr Chamberlain said: "Recent events have shown that if there is to be new investment BNFL may need to lead rather than support and we are prepared to do that."

Mr Chamberlain also said BNFL may ask to inherit the sites that had been earmarked at Sizewell and Hinkley for any new plants. The company is already set to become a significant generator.

A spokesman for BNFL said that while the company's role as a direct investor might be limited, it would be prepared to lead the way in negotiating with the international banking and nuclear communities. BNFL, which is primarily a nuclear fuel services company, already has substantial cus-

tomers and connections overseas.

Although BNFL is owned by the Government, it is established as a plc and has certain freedoms to make investment decisions and operate as a commercial company. It has to recent years been heavily marketing its services in the US, Asia and Europe and is now among the UK's leading exporters.

Mr Chamberlain also warned that BNFL will demand assurances from the Government over the funding of the multi-billion-pound liabilities for the Magnox plants.

He said that Magnox would be set up as a separate subsidiary, Magnox Electric, which would be a "separate unit from all of BNFL" and would not include BNFL's two existing power plants.

Mr Chamberlain said: "As an international company seeking to penetrate new markets around the world, our credibility is influenced by the health or otherwise of our balance sheet and we cannot have that distorted by liabilities attached to Magnox Electric. As a plc, BNFL cannot take on a net liability and we shall be discussing with the Government in some detail how this aspect is to be handled."

Mr O'Neill said that the decision not to integrate Magnox Electric made a nonsense of the Government's arguments that it would create synergies by giving the reactor family to BNFL.



Nuclear outburst: Neville Chamberlain of BNFL

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

## Lloyd's funds stay buoyant

The recent news from Lloyd's of London has not been guaranteed to gladden the hearts of investors in Lloyd's funds, the investment trusts set up to allow limited-liability investment in the insurance market. In recent months Lloyd's has not only lost its head of regulation, Rosalind Gilmore, but its chief executive, Peter Middleton, as well. Meanwhile, concerns are mounting over the continuing slippage of plans to establish Equitas, the reinsurance "dustbin" into which it is intended that all the problems of the past be swept.

Despite all this gloom, shares in the Lloyd's funds seem to have maintained the buoyancy the *Independent* identified last August. The index compiled by the broker UBS in our illustration, which covers the original businesses floated in 1993, is standing at levels not seen for a year. Yet the discount to net assets, at 8.8 per cent, has seldom been wider, suggesting now may be a good time to dive in.

The problem for would-be investors in Lloyd's funds is the lack of up-to-date information. Yesterday's figures from Abtrust Lloyd's Insurance Trust illustrate the point. While the company recorded a rise in profits from £606,000 to £689,000 in the six months to September, almost

all of that surplus comes from the investment of the proceeds of its flotation at 100p in November 1993.

Much more important will be the underwriting results derived from the syndicates in which Abtrust has invested. The 1994 figures will not be known until 1997 under Lloyd's three-year accounting rule. But returns made by the syndicates' managing agents suggest that gross underwriting profits will be between 8.3 and 13.3 per cent of Abtrust's £38.3m premium business written or "capacity" in 1994.

With UBS forecasting a 1994 result of 12.4 per cent, Abtrust looks on course to produce one of the better results in the sector. Even so, unchanged at 80p, the shares are not necessarily the best value in the sector. Taking account of three potential outcomes, ranging from Lloyd's going bust to it again achieving long-term gross returns of 10 per cent, UBS tips Angerstein, CLM, HCG and Limit as being particularly undervalued.

Before investors jump, however, they should beware. Apart from the specific problems of Lloyd's, insurance rates have peaked and 1995 results are likely to show a fall on the £1bn expected for 1994. Meanwhile, capacity at Lloyd's is

forecast to be down only around 3 per cent to £9.9bn in 1996, putting further pressure on rates.

## Resolving the generator riddle

More than a million investors in last year's £4bn share issue by the generators National Power and PowerGen are making up their mind whether to send off the second of three instalments or cut their losses on what has been a dismal investment.

PowerGen's partly-paid shares are currently trading at 200p compared with the 180p first instalment. National Power, at 141p, is 20p below the 170p shareholders put up last year.

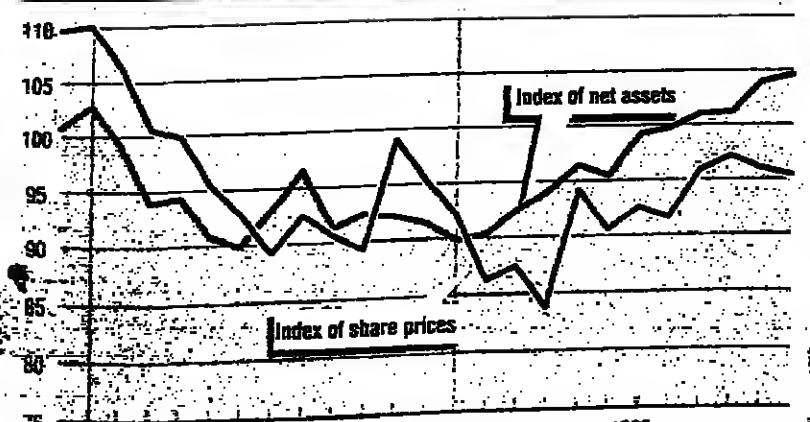
The basic payment for the second slice is 170p for National Power shares and 185p for PowerGen. Anyone who opted for discounted shares at the time of the first instalment will pay 160p on the first 480 National Power shares and 175p on the first 320 PowerGen.

So what should they do? There are three options: pay up, sell the partly-paid shares in the market or do nothing. The last of these is not recommended as the Treasury will simply take back your shares, sell them in the market at a possibly unfavourable price and charge you the costs of doing so.

Whether you put more money into either company depends on the view you take of their cloudy prospects. Their future performance depends largely on ongoing MMC inquiries into their stalled bids for Midlands Electricity (PowerGen) and Southern Electric (NP). The result will not be known until March so to a large extent this is a blind investment.

That said, a favourable MMC result would be good news for the shares. A compromise solution is to sell enough in the market to fund the call on the rest. That way you maintain an exposure without committing any more money.

## Lloyd's funds: how they have performed



## IN BRIEF

## Goldman Sachs may opt for float

New York – The 174 general partners of Goldman Sachs gather for an annual get-together in a country-club resort hotel outside New York City today amid intense speculation that the bank may shortly opt to sell itself to the public, writes David Usborne.

Analysts predict that a prompt flotation could raise funds equal to 2.5 or even three times the book value of the bank. At issue is whether the bank, founded in 1869 by Marcus Goldman, can remain competitive with a capital base estimated at \$5bn, that is both expensive relative to those of its competitors and inherently volatile. An exodus of more than 30 partners in the wake of the 1994 profits collapse threatens to shrink its base by as much as 10 per cent.

## Fokker set to seek link with rivals

The owner of Fokker may seek an alliance with European rivals rather than place the ailing Dutch plane-maker into liquidation. As the company's financial crisis deepened last night, Germany's Daimler-Benz Aerospace sought talks with Aero International Regional, a joint venture between British Aerospace, Alenia and Aerospaciale. Wim Kok, the Dutch prime minister, said yesterday that Fokker's future looked bleak after the government and DASA failed to agree a £1.2bn (£800m) refinancing.

## Store conversions boost Somerfield

Operating profits at the supermarket group Somerfield rose 52 per cent to £44.9m in the six months to November with turnover growing fast in stores that have been converted from the Gateway fascia. Pre-tax profits increased from £16.8m to £24.2m. More than half the group's selling space has now been converted to trade as Somerfield. Like-for-like sales growth at 5 per cent was comparable with the industry average.

## BA drops USAir investment option

British Airways confirmed yesterday that it will not be exercising an option to invest another \$200m this year and \$250m by 1998 in USAir. A stalemate in the Anglo-US aviation talks meant BA could not have raised its current 24.6 per cent shareholding above 25 per cent. A BA spokesman said: "We have allowed the option to lapse but will continue to seek a relaxation of restrictions on foreign ownership of USAir. Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, will next week replace Sir Colin Marshall as one of the UK airline's three directors on the USAir Board."

## COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
BT Group (Q)	82.2m (50.9m)	4.35m (3.6m)	3.82p (3.30p)	nil (1.7p)
British Household (Q)	2.1m (1.8m)	-0.15m (-0.21m)	-3.8p (-5.4p)	nil (nil)
Centrica (Q)	28.1m (29.1m)	0.05m (0.11m)	0.35p (0.43p)	1p (1p)
LPA Industries (Q)	5.72m (5.21m)	0.61m (0.62m)	4.36p (4.30p)	0.88p (nil)
NITTE Group (Q)	72.1m (60.2m)	2.55m (1.85m)	6.5p (4.9p)	1.8p (1.3p)
Park Food Group (Q)	21m (18.7m)	-5.7m (-5.5m)	-1.1p	1.1p (1.0p)

(P) - Profit (Q) - Quarter (Q) - Nine months

The first soap seen on a TV station.

CANARY WHARF  
Every day 5pm & 9pm. Weekend omnibus

LIVE TV  
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24HR CABLE



## market report/shares

## DATA BANK

FT-SE 100

3,748.4 - 0.3

FT-SE 250

4,073.6 +15.4

FT-SE 350

1,858.8 + 1.4

SEAQ VOLUME

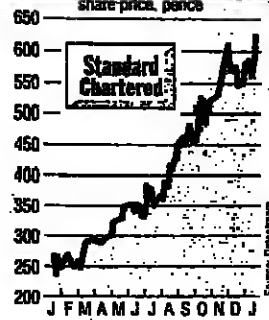
780.3m shares,

41,163 bargains

Gilt Index

96.22 - 0.12

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT



## Speculators rush to buy as takeover fever spreads

## MARKET REPORT

JOHN SHEPHERD



The City's gossip tanks for the week have been steadily filling up. Takeover rumours were appended yesterday to several stocks, large and small, and spanning a diverse range of sectors.

The speculation usefully underpinned the market, and led to a busy day - particularly so for a Friday, with more than 780 million shares changing hands in 41,000 deals.

Confirmation that Carnival Corporation of the US may take a 30 per cent stake in Airtours, and a £96m agreed bid for BI from National Industries reinforced beliefs that 1996 will be as active as the bid front as last year.

The unloved Unitech Group was covered in takeover speculation. Shares climbed 11.5p to 499p, as a rumour went round that Electrowatt may sell its 29.4 per cent, £102.4m stake to Siemens, which could spark a full-blown

bid. One dealer said any bid for Unitech, which is due to confirm next week that its profits are soaring, would have to be pitched at more than £400m - about 600p a share - to stand any chance of success.

Unitech's shares have underperformed the electronic equipment sector by 7 per cent in the last month, and by 5 per cent over the past three months despite, according to sources, making a mint out of selling power supply units to Japanese companies through its 51 per cent-owned Nemico-Lambda subsidiary.

Analysts expect Unitech's interim results next week to point to a rise in full-year taxable profits from £36m to £40m-plus, and upwards of £50m for 1996/97.

The rumour appeared to have been started by separate speculation filtering out of Germany that Electrowatt was, itself, looking to do a large ac-

quisition and needed to raise funds from selling investments. Takeover rumours were again rife on the television pitch. Yorkshire Tyne-Tees Television sprang 37p to 759p, and dealers were frantically, and often unsuccessfully, trying to buy large lines of shares in what is a very tightly held stock.

The passing of the Broadcasting Bill, currently going through Parliament, will result in an open season for takeovers in the sector. Several dealings rooms were awash with gossip yesterday that MAL, owner of the Meridian and Anglian television franchises, was testing the waters with some of Yorkshire's share-

holders and was apparently prepared to offer around 900p a share.

Most of the other television shares marked time, although reasonable gains were recorded by Scottish Television, up 4p to a fresh high for the year of 457p. Border, ahead 13p to a year's peak of 261p, and Grampian, which closed 3p better at 226p.

The Standard Chartered share price continued to resemble a runaway train, advancing another 28p to an all-time high of 618p and taking the bank's market value to just short of £6bn.

There are strong rumours that Standard is negotiating to sell its Asian securities busi-

ness. The most tipped buyer is Nava finance of Thailand.

One trader yesterday suggested that Standard could even fall prey to a takeover bid. Much depends on whether Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puan is prepared to sell his 14.95 per cent share holding.

Other bank stocks, as well as the market's leading 100 shares had a quiet session in the wake of the euphoria that greeted the cut in base rates. The FT-SE 100 index raced away in early dealings, sporting a 18.7-point advance right at the bell on the back of Wall Street's overnight surge.

A strong opening yesterday in the US, however, was largely ignored and the FT-SE 100 closed 0.3 of a point lower at 3,748.4.

Activity in second-liners, though, was considerably more intense and the FT-SE 250 index marched a further 15.4 points forward to 4,073.6 - tan-

kingly close to its all-time high of 4,080.1 reached a fortnight ago.

The bullish tone outside the upper echelons owed much to the fresh outbreak of takeover speculation. Airtours, which never comments on market speculation, was forced into making an announcement as its shares went into overdrive in morning trading.

Airtours finished 33p higher at 433p, but had traded at 455p at one time during the session. Analysts believe the cash that looks set to roll in from a deal with Carnival will be used to fund acquisitions on the Continent, starting with the purchase of Spies in Denmark.

The out-of-favour First Choice tour operator was pulled along in the wake of Airtours and rose 4p to 76p.

Among the real takeover action, Granada eased 2p to 694p and Forte dipped 5.5p to 376p.

## TAKING STOCK

James Millar, the recently installed chairman of WKN, yesterday bought 150,000 shares in the company a day after it released a poor Christmas trading statement. The price rose 0.5p to 17p. Mr Millar has become something of a takeover indicator in recent years. He was formerly chairman of Wm Low, taken over by Tesco, and at Invergordon Distillers, acquired by Whyte & Mackay almost four years ago.

Manchester United scored off the pitch, netting a total of £6m from a publishing deal with Video Collection International. The deal gives United, up 2p to 191p, £2.5m cash up-front and £3.5m of royalty payments over the next 30 months. In the next 10 years VCI will publish all new videos, books, magazines and other formats under the Manchester United name.

Banks, Merchant		Banks, Retail		Breweries		Building/Construction		Building Materials		Chemicals		Distributors	
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Bank of America	100.00	Bank of											



res		D-MARK	
month	3 months	Spot	3 months
0-3	0-6	0876	0876
5-23	7-70	0878	0878
46-40	125-15	3493	3493
55-72	155-55	3716	3716
10-14	194-31	7137	7137
2-4	5-8	0548	0548
17-47	55-40	23241	23241
20-40	170-120	31897	31897
34-52	37-65	4371	4371
5-11	4-14	0878	0878
10-15	10-40	1789	1789
30-32	30-37	41258	41258
19-38	140-430	45453	45453
33-37	10-10	0870	0870
10-12	10-17	0987	0987
2-2	15-35	3222	3222
4-12	40-80	17748	17748
20-32	87-90	1089	1089
2-7	9-14	23069	23069
4-30	125-88	15835	15835

Country	Starting	Dollar
Germany	02847	85000
France	09433	03850
Italy	13001	34258
Spain	29452	10000
Japan	28119	12940
UK	50866	35621
Belgium	70038	47690
Austria	55089	36455
Switzerland	87409	45000
Sweden	85591	35791

and from spot and 3 months rates quoted low to high respectively. For 1 month rates, the 1 month rate (shown next) apply other rates.

	3 Boys	
New Zealand (Dollars)	2,950	
Portugal (Escudos)	250,000	
Switzerland (Francs)	1,740	
Sweden (Kronor)	853,000	
United States (Dollars)	1,400	

	Japan	Dollar
Osaka	0594	
Yokohama	0594	
Central	3070	
Belgium	3675	
Switzerland		
London	1510	
Frankfurt	4252	

	1yr	yield %	1yr	yield %
3%	454	8%	58	
2 1/4%	488	8 1/2%	52	
1 3/4%	857	9 1/4%	57	
1 1/4%	725	9 1/2%	61	
IT 9 3/4%	54%	7 1/4%	69	

on local basis. \*\* Domestic near benchmark.

	3 Months	1 Year
1 3/4%	5 1/4%	5 1/4%
2 1/4%	6 1/4%	6 1/4%
3 1/4%	7 1/4%	7 1/4%
4 1/4%	8 1/4%	8 1/4%
5 1/4%	9 1/4%	9 1/4%
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12650	99949	235357
12749	2587	813
12850	4849	14336
12950	1761	14321
9431	16932	26702
9536	20657	17661
9634	28188	93387
9638	1415	14253
9657	97	4986
9674	12453	3671
9745	12468	63761
9750	95	4463
9956	13463	41953

### tion

	Share	Cost/Pkt	Total	Vol
0/30	3800			
0/54	0/54			++
3738	20385			++
7757	7173			++
5776	74713			++

Line	LINE Status	chg
3505	83350	-- 6595
3578	8000	-- 349
3634	8000	-- 400
3670	93075	-- 3225
3720	4790	-- 400
3749	8000	-- 400
3849	65600	-- 3520

Stock volumes & change in volume at Friday, 8 January

	S	C	%
275	Knights	391463	23.97
3381	Knights	82397	5.14
30	Knights	42934	2.71
33	Maple Leaf	40215	2.5575

### Products

Line	Product	Vol	Cost
12550	Jan	306	306
12650	May	313	313
12650	Jun	322	322
12641	Leaf	1,041	1,041

### Costs

Line	Cost	1250 Price
12550	CBST	0
12725	HL	35750
12728	May	39350
12850	May	39350

Source: 4/25/94

### Products 1 (2/2/94)

Line	Product	Vol	Cost
12550	Leaf	306	306
12650	May	313	313
12650	Jun	322	322
12641	Leaf	1,041	1,041

### Products 2 (2/2/94)

Line	Product	Vol	Cost
12550	Leaf	306	306
12650	May	313	313
12650	Jun	322	322
12641	Leaf	1,041	1,041

Source: 4/25/94

### Products 3 (2/2/94)

Line	Product	Vol	Cost
12550	Leaf	306	306
12650	May	313	313
12650	Jun	322	322
12641	Leaf	1,041	1,041

Source: 4/25/94

### Products 4 (2/2/94)

Line	Product	Vol	Cost
12550	Leaf	306	306
12650	May	313	313
12650	Jun	322	322
12641	Leaf	1,041	1,041

Source: 4/25/94

### Products 5 (2/2/94)

Line	Product	Vol	Cost
12550	Leaf	306	306
12650	May	313	313
12650	Jun	322	322
12641	Leaf	1,041	1,041

Source: 4/25/94

### Products 6 (2/2/94)

Line	Product	Vol	Cost
12550	Leaf	306	306
12650	May	313	313
12650	Jun	322	322
12641	Leaf	1,041	1,041

Source: 4/25/94

### Products 7 (2/2/94)

Line	Product	Vol	Cost
12550	Leaf	306	306
12650	May	313	313
12650	Jun	322	322
12641	Leaf	1,041	1,041

Source: 4/25/94

### Products 8 (2/2/94)

Line	Product	Vol	Cost
12550	Leaf	306	306
12650	May	313	313
12650	Jun	322	322
12641	Leaf	1,041	1,041

Source: 4/25/94

### Products 9 (2/2/94)

Line	Product	Vol	Cost
12550	Leaf	306	306
12650	May	313	313
12650	Jun	322	322
12641	Leaf	1,041	1,041

Source: 4/25/94

### Products 10 (2/2/94)

Line	Product	Vol	Cost
12550	Leaf	306	306
12650	May	313	313
12650	Jun	322	322
12641	Leaf	1,041	1,041

Source: 4/25/94

### Products 11 (2/2/94)

Line	Product	Vol	Cost
12550	Leaf	306	306
12650	May	313	313
12650	Jun	322	322
12641	Leaf	1,041	1,041

Source: 4/25/94

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# Townsend takes over the torch

The debate north of the border centres around why Craig Chalmers, the World Cup stand-off, is replaced by Gregor Townsend, ostensibly a centre, for the difficult opening match against Ireland in Dublin. South of the border it is not a question that concerns either Townsend or his coach, Ian McGeechan.

In fact, Townsend has played most of his rugby at stand-off. It is his favourite position and he would be occupying it at Northampton but for the presence of Paul Grayson. In any case, Townsend does not believe in strict lines of demarcation. "If you're quick you should be able to play in any position in the backs," he said. "The game should be more like football. You don't have to stick to one position."

The Saints will march straight back into the First Division this year and, under McGeechan, have been playing with such élan that the careers of Townsend, Grayson and others have been enhanced.

"When I joined Northampton," Townsend said, "I asked Ian where he thought I should be playing. He said it was up to me. I have no qualms about playing centre. I've enjoyed it and Paul and I share the decision making." It should make for an interesting stand-off if Townsend faces Grayson in the Scotland-England match at Murrayfield.

Meanwhile, the conspiracy theorists have come up with an interesting idea for the omission of Chalmers and the wing Kenny Logan - they both have newspaper columns in Scotland and, professional or no, the feeling is that such an enterprise goes against the grain of the Scottish Rugby Union.

The explanation from the coaches is: don't believe everything you read in the newspapers. The official line is that the midfield trio of Townsend, Scott Hastings and Ian Jardine provides a balance of attack and defence, a balance which would be upset if the midfield included both Chalmers and Townsend. As for Michael Dods, Logan's

## Tim Glover on the Scotland stand-off hailed as the 'next Jonathan Davies'

replacement, he can kick goals. Full-back Rowen Shepherd (he has played stand-off and centre) missed a whole flock of kicks in the recent defeat against Italy, who outscored Scotland four to one in tries. "That was not as disappointing as the result suggests," Townsend said. "It was an experimental match for us. There were certain things we tried, others we didn't. I would have been very disappointed not to have been given another chance. We could have been

'He is now very consistent, very focused and can manipulate a game. He is a real threat'

26-0 up had we kicked our goals. I think Italy are good enough to be in the championship but if we met them in that it would be a different story."

At the age of 22 Townsend has already run the gamut between triumph and despair. Last season, for example, he scored a try against France, contributed (by missing touch) to what appeared to be the winning score by Philippe Saint-André and then slipped a sublime pass to Gavin Hastings for Scotland's first win in Paris for 26 years.

In his final club game of the season Townsend, who has a history of injuries, tore the cruciate ligaments in his left knee and while Scotland were performing in the World Cup in South Africa he was undergoing 14 weeks of physiotherapy. He was in his final year studying politics at Edinburgh University and put the time to good use

by passing his exams. He also confirmed his fitness by playing eight games in Australia for Warrington.

From the age of five Townsend, whose father Peter had been a useful centre, played mini rugby for Gala and by 17 was a fixture in the first XV. The last of the gala dinners came last year when he became part of a graduate training scheme with the Royal Bank of Scotland in London. He considered London Scottish but Northampton had McGeechan. When the clubs met earlier this season Townsend scored three tries against the Exiles.

"Whereas rugby in Scotland is based more on a quasi-New Zealand system," Townsend said, "England pump everything into the clubs. They are more professionally run, on the lines of a business and are geared to winning. It's enjoyable but I always see myself going back to Gala, perhaps in a year or two. I'm still learning and improving and when I go back it will be as a better player." Perhaps his father, to whom he sends a video of every match, will be the judge of that.

Two years ago, when Scotland drew 6-6 at Lansdowne Road, Townsend, at stand-off, kicked the ball 11 times, passed it seven and ran with it once. "Craig had been dropped for the first time and instead of thinking about playing my own game I was thinking about not making mistakes. I never tried things, I played safe. I'm glad I've gone through that experience."

Townsend, once described by John Rutherford as the next Jonathan Davies, has sharpened his skills at Northampton, albeit in the Second Division. "He has the ability to beat players at whatever level and in any space," McGeechan, who is still involved in coaching development with the SRU, said. "Like all good players he has time on the ball and can leave his decisions until very late. That poses problems for a defence. He is now very consistent, very focused and can manipulate a game. He is a real threat."



Townsend: Stand-off playing as centre for his club Photograph: Mike Hewitt/Allsport

# Going into bat for The Vulgar Boatmen

Jim White



ON SATURDAY

Do not be misled by those adverts on the BBC for this afternoon's France against England match in the Five Nations. They feature "Dominique", the ghostly single hit of the Singing Nun, because, apparently, the BBC wanted to point out that not everything French is as slick, suave and sophisticated as a David Gilmour back-heel. As an act of subversion of the Gallic cause, however, it is somewhat backfired: the Singing Nun was Belgian.

Besides, the type of music that should really be soundtracking anything to do with English rugby is opera. What, you might wonder, is it about rugby players and opera? Something to do with large men of sizeable girth getting over-emotional? Whatever it is, since Brian Moore declared an undying love for aria and recitative (last Thursday night, instead of training with the England squad the freshly retired hooker was at the English National Opera watching *The Pearl Fishers*) it has become a *rigueur* for rugby internationals to wax lovingly about opera.

First it was Victor Uboegbu, proclaiming a life-long interest in the Ring Cycle. And now news reaches us of Jeremy Guscott presenting *Top Score*, described by BBC2 as a "six-part, child-friendly introduction to the world of opera" which kicks off on 4 February. Guscott spends his time in the series interviewing Luciano Pavarotti, watching Roberto Alagna hit top C during a production of *La Bohème* and generally proselytising about the thinking-rugby player's music of choice.

"It's the emotion," he says of Tosca, his fave rave. "It's so full of it." To be fair to Guscott, his is a recent conversion. He admits he was selected for the presenting job because he was not a buff, and was thus in the same position as most of the children in his audience, learning as he went along. Until he started, his preferred listening was "all sorts of music: M People, Phil Collins and Harry Connick Junior." In short a taste for the kind of middle-of-the-road fare which, if you believed the questionnaire-style interviews which are the main insight we have into the private preferences of our heroes, appears to be issued at birth to sportsmen.

But scratch away the surface, and rugby is not the only sport to harbour practitioners who favour the musically atypical. Mike Brearley, for instance, used to calm his nerves when facing Michael Holding by humming Mozart quartets. And Derek Fringle, at present reporting on the South African debacle for this paper, stood out in the Essex dressing-room for his love of *The Vulgar Boatmen*, the Go-Betweens and Magnet Fields.

"The most common response I got in the dressing room," said Fringle speaking from somewhere on the tour of pain, "was, 'you only like that stuff to be different'. Well, while I think

it's right to seek out those things on the margin, basically Dire Straits gave me a headache."

"In my early days at Essex, Gooch, who is a big Van Morrison man by the way, asked me what I thought of Simply Red. I said simply crap and he remembered it most of my career, as if it were an insight rather than, I would have thought, a statement of the obvious."

Cricketers, Fringle adds, have more time than most sportsmen to develop their tastes - all those breaks for bad light and hanging around to bat while Gooch scores a double ton.

"John Stephenson and I used to swap tapes," he says. "And he introduced The Replacements to the Hampshire dressing-room when he went there as skipper. This tour the England party seem to be bung up on James for some reason."

Not Devon Malcolm, though, who left for home in a huff taking a couple of Fringle's lovingly compiled reggae tapes with him.

Though it is unlikely that Paul Ince cited the opportunity to go to the La Scala opera house in Milan as his major reason for joining Inter, there are even some footballers who deviate from the regulation affection for Luther Vandross. For every hundred David Seaman (seen looking more enthusiastic than might be considered necessary at Rod Stewart's Wembley gig last summer), there is a Danny Dichlo (of OPR) who spends his Saturday nights spinning acid jazz, house and garage as a sharp DJ. David James, the Liverpool keeper, too, is a keen amateur jockey, boasting an ability to keep three record decks on the go at once. Not that surprising an act of co-ordination, though, for a man apparently capable of keeping three hair-styles on the go at once.

There are indie rock fans too out on the pitch. The grandfather of them all is Pat Nevin, who once admitted a fondness for the Factory records act Crispy Ambulance, and subsequently rather regretted it. And at Nottingham Forest, following the lead of his skipper Stuart Pearce, once spotted pogoing at a Lurkers gig, Scott Gemmill claims that the worst thing that happened in 1995 was that The Verve split up, so soon after making "A Northern Soul", his album of the decade. Appearances may be deceptive, but you couldn't feel feeling that his father, Archie, was probably a Carpenter's man.

# Ireland become unlikely contenders under Kidd

TIM GLOVER reports from Dublin

The likes of Willie Duggan and Moss Keane must be turning on their heels. For the first time in living memory Ireland are not just expected to beat Scotland at Lansdowne Road today but are being backed heavily by Paddy Power, the Dublin bookmaker, to win the Triple Crown.

This is simply not the Irish way. The Irish way was to lose heavily in a friendly against Turkey, approach the Five Nations as the mangiest of underdogs, beat the living daylight out of the favourites and then resort to type to finish last or next to last in the championship table. In other words they were accustomed to playing an 80-minute season.

Duggan, Keane and other lunchtime legends (the former could be witnessed enjoying a pint and a bag outside the Lansdowne

club bar after an international while the other players were getting changed) would probably not recognise the revolution that Ireland is now embarked on.

Gone, after the World Cup, are the amiable Murphys, Gery and Noel. The IRFU has taken the view that if you can't beat them, employ a New Zealander. Well, if the football team could do it with an Englishman anything is possible. Enter Murray Kidd, a 42-year-old fitness fanatic from Auckland.

Kidd, who is on a one-season contract, was not the first choice, which is not surprising considering his c.v. He lasted less than a year at King Country partly because that, under his guidance, the players thought they were training for the SAS rather than a rugby match. There is even a rumour that any Irish forward caught dropping a pass in training has to pay a penalty by breaking into a sprint.

Under Kidd's brief influence, Ireland have responded so im-

IRELAND v SCOTLAND	
at Lansdowne Road, Dublin	
J Staples	Harlequins, capt
R Wallace	Gwynedd
J Ball	Northampton
K McQuinn	Bective Rangers
S George	Bath
E Elwood	Lansdowne
C Saverimuttu	Sale
N Popplewell	Newcastle
T Kingston	Dolphin
P Clancy	Young Munster
G Rutherford	Constitution
N Francis	Old Belvedere
J Davidson	Dungannon
P Johns	Dungannon
D Corbary	Constitution
15 R Shepherd	Melrose
14 C Joyner	Melrose
13 S Hastings	Watersloans
12 J Jardine	Stirling County
11 M Dods	Northampton
10 G Townsend	Northampton
9 B Redpath	Melrose
8 D Hilton	Bath
7 K McKenzie	Stirling County
6 S Wright	Boroughmuir
5 C Campbell	Dundee HSFP
4 G Weir	Melrose
3 R Wainwright	W Hartlepool, capt
2 E Peters	Bath
1 J Smith	Gloucester

pressively that they find themselves responsible for doubling Mr Power's business. First they found a scrum-half in England who, despite the name of Saverimuttu, or perhaps because of it, is qualified for Ireland.

Then they went out and hammered Fiji, the same Fiji who a week earlier were desperately unlucky not to beat Wales in Cardiff. Ireland completed their preparations with a wet weather victory over the United States.

Beating Fiji and the Eagles, neither of whom qualified for the World Cup, does not suddenly in itself make Ireland a home banker to beat Scotland. Indeed, Terry Kingston is the only member of the side who has experienced success against the Scots. What has also contributed to Paddy's power is the poor form of Scotland.

In drawing with Western Samoa and losing to Italy they have scored one try and conceded six. And, of course, no longer at full-back is the Edinburgh rock, Gavin Hastings. "His absence has not affected us as much as the media make out," Gregor Townsend maintained. "This is the same media who said not so long ago that Gavin should have been dropped because he wasn't playing well."

Much has been made of the choice of Townsend ahead of Craig Chalmers but Ireland have made a questionable move in playing Eric Elwood at stand-off. In terms of natural ability

he does not compare to two alternatives, Paul Burke and David Humphreys.

Outside Elwood, Ireland have a three-quarter line that looks impressive. Whether they will see that much of the ball depends, as usual, on the battles fought in the line-out and between the back rows. Ireland look to have the edge in the former, Scotland the latter.

Ireland last won their opening match in the Five Nations in 1988, beating Scotland in Dublin. "Losing the first one makes life very difficult," Jim Staples, Ireland's new captain, said. "We all know this is a far bigger match than the two we have played but we have prepared well."

Ireland have never been so professional. For the first time a sponsor, Irish Permanent, will have its logo on the players' jerseys. The chances of it being a permanent fixture will depend, to a certain extent, on whether Kidd's stuff is for real.

## A question of cash: who gets what in brave new world

ENGLAND: Back £24,000 for squad membership; plus £2,000 for each match started; £1,000 for replacements (whether they play or not). Total for over-present players (six matches): £36,000. No win bonuses.

IRELAND: Contracted players £20,000; match fee £1,000; plus £1,000 for each Five Nations game; £1,000 for replacements. Bonuses: £500 per day; £1,000 per win. Team bonus, including fees for tests against Fiji and US, goes maximum £28,500, minimum £24,500.

SCOTLAND: Retainer of £5,000; £2,500 for Western Samoa Test; £3,000 for each Five Nations match, plus bonus of £5,500 for winning Grand Slam; £4,400 for coming second; £3,300 for third; £2,200 for fourth; £1,100 for last. Total for (Grand Slam) season: £25,000.

WALES: £2,000 for Fiji and Italy tests; plus £300 to beat Fiji and £1,000 to beat Italy. Five Nations contracts not signed, but over-present expected to receive £16,000.

Increasing to £25,000 through bonuses if Wales win Grand Slam.

FRANCE: The squad have already missed out on the £42,800 jackpot that was the prize for a 100 per cent season by losing one test to the All Blacks. But by winning the first test they are above the minimum offered for a losing season of £20,000. Win bonuses are graded according to degree of difficulty of opposition. Estimated earnings: £35,000.

## Field day for Ireland forwards

DAVID HUGHES

reports from Donnybrook, Dublin

Ireland A 26  
Scotland A 19

The Irish second string delivered a timely pre-emptive strike prior to today's main battle with their first win in four attempts over their Scottish counterparts here yesterday.

A late try flattered the Scots who were pretty much beaten after a one-sided first half. Had the Irish place-kicker, Simon Mason, not been so awry with his radar, landing just four from nine, the Irish would have been further out of sight than 19-5 at the break.

The big runners up front, Paul Wallace and Victor Costello (two of nine full internationals in the Ireland side) made regular imprints into the Scottish defence, strengthening the im-

pression that their day at senior level will come again, while the gifted 21-year-old lock Malcolm O'Kelly, along with the veteran 36-year-old Davey Tweed, lorded the line-outs.

The Irish backs did not always make the most of this, and of the two Kiwi centres, Sean McCabill's impenetrable defensive work made a far bigger impression than the sluggish 32-year-old former All Black and rugby league full-back John Gallagher. Sadly, his day has gone.

First and 10th-minute penalties by Mason gave Ireland a huffer before the Scottish backs Graham Shiell and Stuart Lang created a well-worked try for wing John Kerr after 12 minutes.

The Irish pack responded swiftly by rumbing over the line following David Humphreys' kick to the corner and Tweed's take. Wallace getting the touchdown. Mason managed one more penalty before atoning for

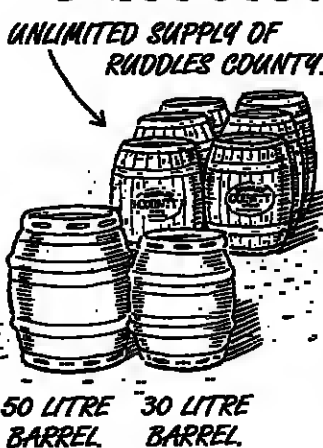
a spate of misses with a 36th-minute interception try.

The Scots, well drilled but short of penetration and flair, recycled the ball repeatedly in the second half. Alas, their only rewards were three penalties by their outside-half Scott Welsh, before an injury-time consolation try by flanker Peter Walton.

By then the Irish had broken out of defence fleetingly enough for their pack to engineer a pushover penalty try after 56 minutes which Mason converted. That left no room for argument.

SCOTLAND: A: S Lang; I Glasgow (Don Hewson); G Shiell (Melrose); R Henderson (London Scottish); J Kerr (Northampton); S MacLellan (Glasgow); N Woods (Glasgow); I Humphreys (London Scottish); A Ralston (Leeds); P Smith; S Byrne; P Wallace (Leeds); D Tweed (Glasgow); M O'Kelly; V Costello (Donnybrook); A Foley (Glasgow); B Miller (Glasgow); R Henderson; I Wilson; D O'Connell; S O'Connell; A: S Lang; I Glasgow (Don Hewson); G Shiell (Melrose); R Henderson (London Scottish); J Kerr (Northampton); S MacLellan (Glasgow); N Woods (Glasgow); I Humphreys (London Scottish); A Ralston (Leeds); P Smith; S Byrne; P Wallace (Leeds); D Tweed (Glasgow); M O'Kelly; V Costello (Donnybrook); A Foley (Glasgow); B Miller (Glasgow); R Henderson; I Wilson; D O'Connell; S O'Connell.

## Mystery of the two Barrels.



A Publican was left bamboozled yesterday as he was required to measure out exactly 40 litres of Ruddles County.

He was presented with two barrels, one having a 30 litre capacity and the other being able to hold 50 litres. An unlimited supply of this most marvellous beer was available and he could fill each of the barrels as many times as he wished. However, the hapless individual failed to puzzle it out.

Perhaps you could have been of some assistance?

A top 30 litre and 50 litre barrel expert from the Ruddles brewery announced plans to release information leading to the salvaging of this caudex, advising people to put their minds at rest by revolving their heads 180 degrees.



Solution: 30 litre barrel: A, 50 litre barrel: B. Fill A, leaving exactly 40 litres in B. Empty A. Pour 10 litres into A, leaving 20 litres in B. Empty A. Fill B, empty into A, leaving 40 litres in B.







**RICHARD EDMONDSON**

tenham. His trainer, Peter Beaumont, said yesterday that the Gold Cup was the gelding's preferred option, but that he could also be prepared for the

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
NAP: Squire York  
(Kempton 2.10)  
NB: Gitter Isle

the most interesting contestant in this race is Lonesome Glory, the leading American chaser, who will stay in Britain for an assault on the Gold Cup if he is successful.

Whatever the outcome, his jockey, Blythe Miller, will be on her way home to the land of big breakfasts after a month's riding out with Charlie Brooks's

**RAYDOCK**  
**12:30: BETTER TIMES AHEAD.** who has clocked some fair times in staying handicap hurdles, is preferred to Long Walk Hurdle runner-up Putty Road. Madrasah may need the run, while 11-year-old Simpson needs to step up on his Newbury run. Belvedere is an interesting rider.

<b>210</b>	<b>BIG LADY SHAWER HANDICAP (CLASS C) £5,500 added 2m 5f £4,013</b>	<b>C4</b>
1 34-431	LUCY BLUE (8) F H Newman N Thorne 9 12 0	F Title
2 P10-52	AMBER'S DOUBTLE (7) F H Newman R Baker 8 11 12	Mir J Galloway (7)
3 310-21	ROSEBINE SEED (4) Rymond Thorne W Cecil 8 11 2	W Kent
4 P2-52	POURCELOIN (8) F H Newman R Baker 8 11 2	W Kent
5 310-31	NESSA MAE (7) P Worswath P Worswath 11 1 8	A Jupp (8)
12 13-51	EVERY SMILE (8) (77) David Loughall J Pines 9 11 5	S Mearns
12 23-51	THE BURNING (8) F H Newman R Baker 8 11 5	R Jupp (8)
8 013-02	NATIVE PACE (7) H L Fiedler J Fiedler 7 11 2	
9 P2-51	PLUMBER MAY (2) L19 (8) E & W R Newman H Sonesson 11 2 5	A Fitzgerald
10 305-54	WINDY (2) (4) Pines A Pines P Pines 11 1 1	Dr Wrigglesley
11 2-11	THE BURNING (8) F H Newman R Baker 8 11 1	S Mearns
13 13-52	ACROSTICH (3) Sweeney Pet P Hoots 5 10 12	R Drommery
14 012-80	NEVER CROSS (4) R H Harvey J Hoots 5 10 12	A P Wootton

<b>210</b>	<b>BIG LADY SHAWER HANDICAP (CLASS C) £5,500 added 2m 5f £4,013</b>	<b>C4</b>
1 34-431	LUCY BLUE (8) F H Newman N Thorne 9 12 0	F Title
2 P10-52	AMBER'S DOUBTLE (7) F H Newman R Baker 8 11 12	Mir J Galloway (7)
3 310-21	ROSEBINE SEED (4) Rymond Thorne W Cecil 8 11 2	Mr J Kent
04-25	POUR FORTUNE (10) F H Newman R Baker 8 11 2	Mr J Kent
5 310-31	NESSMAE (6) P Worswath P Worswath 11 1 8 11	A Jupp (8)
12 31-51	EVERY SMILE (8) (77) David Loughall J Pines 9 11 5	S Mearns
23-31	WINDY ROAD (6) F H Newman R Baker 9 11 5	R Jupp (8)
013-02	NATIVE BIRD (8) F H Newman J Redford 9 11 2	
P2-P516	PLUNGER MAY (10) £15 (8) E & W R Newman Henson 5 11 2	A Fitzgerald
3055-54	WINDY (10) Pines Pines A Pines Pines 5 11 1	Dr Wrigglesley
21-11	THE LADY (10) F H Newman R Baker 5 11 1	Mr J Kent
13-5-P2	ACROSTICH (3) Sargent P H Pines 5 10 11	R Darnley
04-28	WINDY CROWS (10) H R Harvey J Wad 5 10 11	A P. Mearns
01-51	THE LADY (10) F H Newman R Baker 5 10 11	Mr J Kent

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**Results**  
0839 - 111 171

**Commentary**  
0839 - 111 175

Source: Broadband Telephone 111 475 5964  
Calls charged at 10p per min + cheap rate  
\*1p per min to all other times.

	0891-168-168	BEFORE THE OUP	RESULTS
<b>HAYDOCK</b>	101	201	301
<b>KEMPTON</b>	102	202	302
<b>CATTERICK</b>	103	203	303
<b>LINGFIELD</b>	104	204	304
<b>NAAS</b>	120	220	320

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## sport

# Bosnich beavers away at second five-year plan

Phil Shaw talks to Aston Villa's Australian import, who has added consistency to his unforgotten flair to become one of the Premier League's most distinguished goalkeepers

Mark Bosnich was arguably the only beneficiary of Eric Cantona's "kung-fu" leap at Selhurst Park a year ago next week. He now practises the martial arts himself, a coincidence that may not surprise those Tottenham supporters who already see him as a Bruce Lee among Premier League custodians.

The night Cantona went over the top, Aston Villa's Australian international goalkeeper charged out of his area in a bid to beat Jürgen Klinsmann to the ball. Although his knee caught the Spurs striker on the head and laid him out, Bosnich largely avoided trial by television because of the fall-out from south London.

As Villa prepare for tomorrow's return by Spurs, who these days are sadly without the great German, Bosnich admits he might have been "slaughtered" by the media and authorities but for *l'affaire Cantona*. His own challenge was at worst injudicious, no foul was given. Yet it was symptomatic, along with a later sending-off at Leeds, of a turbulent season.

Villa avoided relegation only on the final day. The contrast with the current campaign, in which they stand seventh and meet Arsenal in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-finals, could hardly be more pronounced. With Bosnich allying consistency to his undoubted agility, they have conceded fewer goals (15) than anyone in the four divisions except Gillingham.

He has kept 13 clean sheets, eight of them in League games (the same number as leaders Newcastle), and has still to be beaten in 1996. "I'm much steadier now," he said, "far more mature, more in control than I was."

Contrary to his image – the Villa manager Brian Little recently labelled him "phenomenal", "daft as a brush", "intelligent" and "extrovert" in the same answer – Bosnich likes "to have things organised" as he puts it.

The contradictions run deeper. He has been portrayed here as a stereotypical Aussie, but in his native Sydney he was very much a Croatian and endured racial abuse because of it. He is also depicted as some kind of beach bum in Brun, whereas he has been in England for all but six months during the past eight years and confesses that he could never surf anyway.

In fact, Bosnich takes his craft very seriously. Three afternoons a week he trains on his own. He also does martial arts to improve his balance, reflexes and flexibility. And then there are the five-year plans.

"My first was from when I was 16 to 21 (he reached 24 last Saturday). I gave myself five years to break into first-team football. The next five was to

make myself the best keeper in the country I'm playing in. The five after that is to become recognised as one of the world's best. Then from 31 to 36 or whatever, just to enjoy it all."

At school, Bosnich excelled at rugby league and cricket before coming under the wing of a specialist goalkeeping coach at the age of 12. Friday was English football night on Channel 2 – "a ritual for me" – and he was soon poring over videos of Shilton, Clemence, Jennings and Banks.

On the back of a holiday in the former Yugoslavia he was invited for a trial by Liverpool. Kenny Dalglish was keen but, as Bosnich completed his studies, Manchester United stepped in promising to untangle the red tape holding up his progress.

The work permit did not materialise. After three appearances for United, he drifted back Down Under. He was helping his father to install swimming pools when Ron Atkinson, having placated the Home Office, took him to Villa Park. "If Ron

'I felt like I'd let Ron down. A manager can only do so much, but it's up to the players once they cross that white line'

hadn't come in for me I'd probably be if not a waster, just stuttering along," he said.

Success followed quickly, maybe too quickly. An incredible series of penalty saves – one from Bebeho, another from Ian Wright, one in a Birmingham derby, three in a shoot-out with Tranmere and two against Spurs in the next game – led to Atkinson hailing him as "the best young keeper in the world". When he helped Villa beat United in the Coca-Cola Cup final, Bosnich had just turned 22.

With hindsight, it was then that things started to sour. Because of the three foreigners rule, he was left out against Internazionale in the Uefa Cup. "I took that much worse than I should have done," he recalled. "I also forgot that I actually had to work hard, that the magic didn't come like that (snaps fingers)."

He began making bizarre blunders. At QPR he ventured upfield to clear, as if trying to operate a lone offside trap, and ended up gifting a goal.

Within weeks Atkinson was sacked, and Bosnich's natural ebullience took a further blow. "I felt I'd let Ron down. A

manager can only do so much, but it's up to the players once they cross that white line. I knew that I hadn't been 100 per cent, particularly in my concentration levels. My preparation wasn't what it should have been."

"I may have played Jack the Lad a bit. As we saw with the Paul Merson thing, it's so easy to be sucked into some bad crowds. Though I didn't go to that extreme, there were times when I thought to myself: 'Hey, what are you doing here at this time of night?'"

Little, a Holte End idol of another era, also needed to re-establish his credibility with the Villa crowd. He and his coaches spent the summer working on a three-man defence (Bosnich has dubbed Ugo Ehiogu, Paul McGrath and Gareth Southgate "the Rocks"). So effective has the formation proved that Southgate now plays for England, while Ehiogu and the wing-back Alan Wright will join him at Terry Venables' get-together next week.

Bosnich, who would surely have been with them if his loyalties did not lie elsewhere, argues that Villa are one of the few teams who understand how to play the system. "I saw Manchester United try it at Sunderland the other night, and they struggled. The Rocks are leaving me the bare minimum to do, making sure it has to be something special to beat me."

How long before the cry of "Boring, boring Villa" is heard? "After we got a point at United last week we were labelled dull and uncompromising. I don't object to the second part of that, but we were pinned in our half, like they do to you at Old Trafford. It's not as if we said: 'Let's see if we can get a 0-0 draw.'"

Villa's defensive excellence begs the question of how high they might be if they possessed a Sheringham or a Shearer. The jury is still out on Savo Milosevic, their £2.5m striker, who happens to be from Serbia. Proud as Bosnich is of his ethnic roots, he stresses that the pair have no problems playing together.

"When Savo first came I outlined my position to him and he explained his. Obviously we've got fundamental differences but we get on well. Politics shouldn't come into it. Even though it's hard because it's on the news every day. Our priority is to do well for Aston Villa."

Bosnich is doing exactly that, his second five-year plan apparently on schedule. Intriguingly, his chief rival to become the best in Britain may be his friend and opposite number tomorrow, Ian Walker, already a regular in Venables' squads.

The World Cup in 1998 would be the ideal platform for Bosnich to measure himself against the planet's safest hands. At the moment he sees

no one better than David Seaman and Peter Schmeichel, although Bernard Lama, of Paris St-Germain, and Angelo Peruzzi, of Juventus, also impress him.

In the meantime Villa have a world to play for themselves. After Spurs, the coming weeks pit them against Liverpool and Leeds, not to mention an awkward FA Cup tie at Sheffield United and the double-header

with Arsenal for a Wembley place.

"After that lot, we'll have a better idea of whether we can win something," Bosnich said. "The League is the one. Cups are great but I'd rather be in the top four after 38 matches. There's nothing more satisfying."

That evidently includes shutting out the opposition. "You can get into a trap of becoming

obsessed with clean sheets. Then, if you concede one, it can get you so upset it makes the rest of your game fall apart. You can play brilliantly and still let in a couple, so for me it's more important to be on the winning side."

Better, of course, to fly in the face of conventional wisdom than of an onrushing attacker. Either way, Mark Bosnich is clearly no ordinary goalkeeper.



Bosnich: 'I'm much steadier now, more in control than I was'

Photograph: David Ashdown

## Sellars to test Newcastle's title appetite

Guy Hodgson looks forward to a hectic Premiership programme this weekend

Scott Sellars has many qualities but timing is not among them. He might have two championship medals on display at home but he left Leeds United and Blackburn before the clubs won their titles and it seems likely that his move from Newcastle United to Bolton Wanderers will complete a hat-trick.

In fact the midfielder player is certain that his £750,000 transfer to Burnden Park last month will deny him a prize. "I can't see anyone stopping Newcastle," he said. "They were already the hottest favourites for years and the odds will shorten now they are out of both cup competitions. Newcastle could lose it but they would need a really sticky patch for the rest of the pack to catch them up."

No patch could be more adhesive for the Premiership leaders than a home defeat by the bottom side, Bolton, who have accrued just one point from 33 on their League travels. Against a Newcastle side who are chasing a 12th successive Premiership win at St James' Park, the Wanderers would appear to have about as much chance of succeeding as the Duchess of York becoming Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Particularly as Bolton will be without Chris Fairclough and Gerry Taggart, who are suspended, which more than makes up for the likely absence from Newcastle's team of Les Ferdinand with a hip injury.

Newcastle will go 12 points clear tonight if they win because Manchester United do not play at West Ham until Monday although their assistant, Terry McDermott, was not counting points or chickens. "Anyone expecting an avalanche from us could be surprised," he said.

"Bolton have been unlucky recently with late goals denying them points. They are not as bad as people think they are."

Neither are Manchester City, although there will be plenty who

fear yesterday's purchase of Nigel Clough will be too late if they lose to the team immediately above them in the table, Coventry City, at Maine Road today.

Only Bolton have conceded more goals on their travels than Coventry but against that no team has scored fewer times than City. It is to address this failing that might see Alan Ball give a full debut to Martin Phillips, the 19-year-old winger who he has said could become England's first £10m player.

"A lot of our supporters have been wondering when I'm going to give Martin his first full game in the senior side," he said, "and he'll definitely be involved in some capacity."

If City were shocked to get five goals in the Cup against Leicester on Wednesday it was nothing to the raised eyebrows at Blackburn and Arsenal who surrendered to First Division opposition in midweek.

Arsenal get back to League business when they meet Everton at Highbury with their manager, Bruce Rioch, facing team selection problems. David Platt is out after a second knee operation in five months while centre-backs Tony Adams and Martin Keown will miss the game as they start two-match bans. Everton will have Duncan Ferguson available, after judgment on the judicial review of his 12-match suspension was reserved. Changes in their line-up then, but maybe not as many as at Ewood Park where Ray Harford yesterday appeared to be running out of patience with players who have, in eight months, gone from playing for the championship to playing for pride.

"There was a complacency, lack of spark," the manager said about the 1-0 defeat by Ipswich. "I saw it early on and it became apparent to everyone else. Ironically it was the same team who had played so well against QPR last Saturday."

### Arsenal v Everton

The Gunners wait for tests on Dixon (groin), McGowan (calf) and Winterburn (stomach upset) before naming their side. With Platt (knee) and Boud (hamstring) injured, and Adams and Keown suspended, manager Rioch fields Linington and Marshall in central defence. Everton should be unchanged as new signing Hodgson awaits a work permit.

### Blackburn v Sheffield Wed

Sheff Wed could win a recall for Rowers as Warhurst and Fenton both have stomach bugs. Former England goalkeeper Woods plays for Wednesday as Pressman is again ruled out by a groin injury.

### Chelsea v Nottm Forest

Hitchcock stays in goal for Chelsea as Whelan is still out with a groin injury. Norwegian defender Johnsen and midfielder Specman are included in a 27-man squad. Campbell has recovered from a hamstring injury to take his place up front for Forest.

### Liverpool v Leeds

Liverpool are expected to field an unchanged team, with Rush still on the bench. On-loan Chapman may drop down to the Leeds bench as Deane is back after a two-match suspension. Left-back Dorigo (hamstring) and central defender Johnson (thigh) face fitness tests, so Worthington, Beesley and Couzens are standing by.

### Man City v Coventry

Ian Wrightwell is available after serving a two-match ban and could replace Ingram at left-back for City. Teenage winger Phillips is in the squad. Coventry's Rennie (calf) is a doubt.

### Team news

**Newcastle v Bolton**  
England's midfielders return for Newcastle, but Ferdinand (back) is likely to join Hovoy (hamstring) in the St James' Park treatment room. Finnish striker Paatelainen scored for Bolton's reserves in midweek and is expected to lead their attack, but former Newcastle midfielder Thompson is not yet fit after a hernia operation.

### Southampton v Middlesbrough

Walters will make his Saints debut after his free transfer from Liverpool, but Hennessey is again a doubtful starter because of an ankle injury. Middlesbrough's Brazilian forward Juninho is ruled out by a knee injury and player-manager Robson is doubtful with sciatica – but Barry has recovered from a knee ligament injury.

### Wimbledon v QPR

Clarke could lose his Dons' place now that strikers Hoddinott and Goodnow are fit again. Jones completes a four-match ban, while Sullivan is set to stay in goal as Hoddinott and Seagers are still suffering from knee injuries. QPR welcome back midfielder Barker after a four-match absence through illness and suspension.

### Aston Villa v Tottenham

Leading scorer Yorke has returned from international duty with Trinidad and Tobago and should return for Villa tomorrow. Tottenham captain Malabuti is doubtful with a calf injury so Calderwood could return. Middlesbrough's also included in the squad after recovering from injury.

## Unless your board provides the money, don't get promoted

Imagine the scene last June. Twenty-five minutes into the Premiership play-off at Wembley and Bolton are 2-0 down. Fifteen years of waiting to return to the elite disappearing before our moist eyes.

Ninety-five minutes later, we had won the game, the despair had changed to euphoria, and we looked forward to the start of the season with great anticipation – even though we had lost Bruce Rioch, then appointed joint-managers with a less than impressive record, and had not signed the strikers or full-backs we obviously needed. We did sign two centre-backs, however, to go with the three we already had.

Well, here we are in January and the reality has well and truly struck home. Visits to Liverpool, Aston Villa and even Manchester City have shown us just how far we are behind the elite teams in terms of facilities and footballing talent – although in the case of City, perhaps facilities only.

To compensate us for the increase in cost to watch our weekly humiliations, our board has, it must be said, made attempts to improve our image –

### FAN'S EYE VIEW No 133 Bolton Wanderers DAVID EDGE

even if the team has not been improved (sorry Sasa Curcic, you are the exception).

A new 25,000 all-seater stadium, which will grace the Premiership, is due to be completed in 1997. Unfortunately it will house an Eerste Divisie side destined to spend the future years as nomads, "wandering" between the First and Third divisions, and it hurts. Boy does it hurt.

Frustration boiled over on and off the field. Our normally reliable centre-back, Gudni Bergsson – the Icelandic experienced a melt-down against Queen's Park Rangers and was sent off for the first time in his career. Fans have vented their feelings at our boring, stuttering and shambolic performances with after-match demonstrations, and who can blame them?

So where did it all go wrong?

Stand up the board, Roy McFarland and Colin Todd. Bruce left in June but the management "dream ticket" were not appointed until just before the start of the season. Tactics were changed and we purchased only two players with Premiership experience, both of whom were reserves at their previous clubs.

We have sold our only two midfield players who could tackle, and have seen the introduction into midfield of the manager's son, Andy Todd, whose idea of creativity is to mimic David Batty and pass the ball sideways or backwards.

The formation went from 4-4-2 to 3-5-2 and now 5-3-2. Unfortunately our "wing-backs", wretches as they are, lack the pace to make the system work.

But wait! Will things improve now that our board has finally seen the light and dis-

persed with the services of Mr McFarland? Maybe, but I hope fans of aspiring Premiership clubs will find the following pieces of advice useful.

1) Unless your board is determined to provide the money to purchase quality players and hold on to your best players, then don't bother getting promoted. It only leads to frustration and heartache. Let's be honest, us "true fans" only want our team to win. Believe me, it's no fun admiring the skills of Les Ferdinand as he puts two goals past you when you're bottom of the League.

2) Whatever you do, never, never, never appoint an ex-central defender as a manager. How many good Premiership managers are defenders? Robson, Fergie, Dalglish, Keegan, Francis, Rioch? Not on your life.

3) Be wary of your manager if he tells you that your two best players will definitely be staying at the club to help the Premier cause.

4) Don't prevaricate. It was obvious at Bolton four months ago that things were wrong. If swift and ruthless action is needed then take it. Time waits for no man. Nor does the Premiership.

## Rangers to blood new Dutchman

### Scottish football

Peter van Vossen, Rangers' new Dutchman, is unlikely to be given much time to discover Glasgow's myriad charms. Signed this week from the Turkish club Istanbulspor in a straight swap for Oleg Salenko, Van Vossen appears certain to be selected by Walter Smith as the champions face a resurgent Hearts at Ibrox today.

Rangers hold only a two-point advantage over Celtic at the top of the Premier Division, their Glasgow rivals having won their last two games. Smith will be without Paul Gascoigne, who starts a two-match ban, Stuart McCall and Derek McInnes, while Ally McCoist is rated only doubtful. Hence Van Vossen's hurried introduction.

Hearts have a doubt over John Robertson, but Gary Mackay will break the club appearance record, held by Henry Smith, by playing his 477th game.

Celtic travel to Rugby Park to confront Kilmarnock and face an anxious wait on the fitness of the influential Andreas Thom. Their hosts are likely to name an unchanged side for the third successive game.

### GUY HODGSON

Nigel Clough put his pocket where his mouth is yesterday when he agreed to take a drop in earnings in pursuit of first-team football. He completed a move to Manchester City for around £1m, but will not be receiving the salary he enjoyed at Liverpool.

"He has taken a sensible decision," Alan Ball said, "and it impressed me. It shows me he is determined to pick up his career. I know him from my time working with the England squad under Graham Taylor. He is a very fine footballer and a likeable personality, too."

"Nothing moves faster on a football field than the brain and he has a very, very good mind." City's manager added. "I also want someone who can operate on the same wavelength as Georgi Kinkladze and I couldn't have anyone better."

While Clough was moving into Maine Road, Tony Coton was going out, joining Manchester United for £500,000. "I'm going to be No 2 to the best goalkeeper in the world, Peter Schmeichel," he said after five and a half years with City.

## Clough takes pay cut to move to Maine Road

"A call from a club like United doesn't come around too often so when it does you have to be interested. The club has an aura, I wouldn't go to be No 2 anywhere else. To be at the right end of the table for the first time will be fantastic."

City are also still in the market for a left-back. "We have to tighten up there," Ball said. "We are working on getting another quality signing and have one or two irons in the fire." Last week he agreed a £750,000 fee for the Southampton United captain, Chris Powell, and, although the deal collapsed due to a disagreement over the terms of payment, it could be resurrected. However, the Danish international midfielder, Ronnie Ekelund, is returning to Barcelona after a loan spell at Maine Road.

The former England winger, Andy Sinton, yesterday returned to London by signing for Tottenham Hotspur for £1.5m from Sheffield Wednesday. The 29-year-old rejoins Gerry Francis – his former manager at Queen's Park Rangers – on a three-and-a-half-year deal, but has not been registered in time to play in tomorrow's match at Aston Villa.

Arsenal's John Hartson, Wolves' Eric Young, Sheffield United's Glyn Hodges, Paul Mardon (West Bromwich) and two uncapped strikers – Burnley's Kurt Nogan and Bristol Rovers' Marcus Browning – have all been called up. Gould has also been called up, the services of his Under-21 management team, Brian Flynn and Joey Jones.







# England's bold new style faces Paris fashion test

Rugby Union  
STEVE BALE  
reports from Paris

In the intransigent aftermath of England's moderate victory over Western Samoa probably the last thing Jack Rowell needed was a visit to Parc des Princes with which to try once more to demonstrate the efficacy of "dynamic", "inclusive", "all-encompassing" rugby.

At the outset of another Five Nations' Championship, precisely what these expressions mean in practice has still to be determined, and until Will Carling's team play in these ways he will not actually find out. Both captain and manager have talked a good game as long as Rowell has held his position - and in Carling's case since long before - but with the odd notable exceptions talk is all it has been.

Carling has been at it again this week, declaring his squad's

view of the primacy of style over the substance of simple victory, of the future over the present. Laudably far-sighted as this is, the response of English adherence to this stylistic imperative can easily be imagined if it were to entail defeat.

And though Carling's England have won four times in succession at the Parc - four times more than any other home country during that period - defeat this afternoon is an eventuality that is all too possible for a team generally in transition and specifically with unproven half-backs.

Well paid they may now be, but on their behalf Carling pleads for patience and understanding. "We have brought in some new, younger players, very exciting players who are going to take a while to find their feet," he said. "Maybe we have tried too fast to play an all-encompassing type of rugby."

All the more reason, then, for Carling to assume the respon-

sibilities of captaincy more fully than was ever necessary when he was comfortably accompanied by Rob Andrew, Brian Moore and the rest. Once England are out there today, even Dean Richards will not be of much assistance on the bench.

This means Carling must - perhaps for the first time in his captaincy - lead not only by personal example but also by tactical command. The South Africa and Samoa matches were perfect - perfectly awful - examples of the English habit, even during the years of success, of failing to address on the hoof the specific problems thrown up by specific circumstances.

The ready response is to blame Carling for not taking matters in hand, in the sense that if the captain does not do so who will? Carling has thus been left in no doubt by the manager that more is expected of him both as player and captain and his response has been

FRANCE v ENGLAND			
at Parc des Princes, Paris			
J-L Sedoumay	Colonniers	15 M Carr	Bath
E Ntamack	Toulouse	14 J Slightholme	Bath
R Dourthe	Dax	13 W Carling	Harlequins, capt
T Castaignède	Toulouse	12 J Guscott	Bath
P Saint-André	Montferand, capt	11 R Underwood	Leicester
T Lacroix	Dax	10 P Grayson	Northampton
P Caronhieu	Toulouse	9 M Dawson	Northampton
M Perte	Toulon	1 G Rowntree	Leicester
J-M Gonzalez	Bayonne	2 M Hagan	Bristol
C Cellano	Toulouse	3 J Leonard	Leicester
O Merle	Montferand	4 M Johnson	Leicester
O Roumet	Dax	5 M Bayfield	Northampton
A Benazzi	Agen	6 S Ojomoh	Bath
F Pelous	Dax	7 B Clarke	Bath
L Cabannes	Racing Club	8 L Dallaglio	Wesps

Replacements: 16 P Berrut-Soltes (Agen), 17 A Perrier (Brest), 18 G Agostini (Agen), 19 H Guez (Agen), 20 J Bessis (Agen), 21 M de Rougemont (Toulon), 22 M de Rougemont (Toulon).

Referee: D McHugh (Ireland). Kick-off: 2.0 (BST).

to lead what Rowell calls the "blackboard sessions" during this week's preparations both in London and Paris.

It is a modest enough beginning, but a beginning for all that and a change from the days

much of one, anyway - came the stern reply.

It is Carling's misfortune that not all of his players are necessarily *au fait* with the game plan even now, and yesterday's 20 minutes at the Club Oisey will not have made any difference. In the aftermath of the cosy Geoff Cooke era, it was Rowell's intention to sew a certain uncertainty in his players in order, supposedly, to challenge them to broaden their perspective and widen their game.

It has patently not worked, not yet, but the reasons were justifiable: to turn England from a side who would win the Five Nations more often than not into one who would beat the rest of the world more often than not. In this context, as Rowell has expounded, the World Cup quarter-final defeat of Australia was ascribed to over-achievement and the semi-final defeat by New Zealand to under-achievement.

Which, means he, like his

team, cannot in the end win, because when England do win there is bound to be something wrong with the way it is accomplished and when they do not there is simply something wrong. Forget it, Jack. Paris may be beautiful even in the winter, but the Parc is a beastly and any win here is its own justification.

How England set about it will be a fascination after the post-Samoa recriminations. When Rowell said he wanted England to revert to basics, he emphatically did not mean the former forward obsession which dragged them to their 1991 Grand Slam and the '91 World Cup final.

But he did mean sensible rugby in which the basic things are done efficiently. A solid scrum-mage and productive line-out are prerequisites of a fluid game just as much of the alternative grunt and grind, and when England have the ball it is pointless for them to imagine they can do what they like with

it wherever they like. Clearly, Rowell has thus far failed to inculcate these truisms into even his most experienced players. "Don't take a tackle in your own half," is a managerial mantra, so what do Rory Underwood and Carling - Underwood and Carling, mind you - do against the Springboks? Foul up, and Chester Williams, the try-scoring beneficiary, will be forever in their debt.

Today Carling and co begin a championship in Paris for the first time since they last lost here in 1988. France are fielding a back division of such exceptional class and promise, with not a quail about the presence of two 20-year-olds in the centre opposite Carling and Jeremy Guscott, but England dare not perpetrate such indiscretions anywhere on the field let alone in their own half. You might call it back to basics. Five Nations' Championship, pages 22 and 23

## Abject England humiliated by Adams' guile

DEREK PRINGLE

reports from East London  
South Africa 129  
England 115  
(South Africa win by 14 runs)

England's tour was in danger of collapsing completely yesterday after they folded against the spin of Paul Adams, who took three wickets in six overs, after his side had made 129, their lowest score in a home international. It was a dire performance on a slow, low pitch, but one that will have advanced South Africa's feeling of indomitability over Michael Atherton's beleaguered team, as Adams, ignored by the selectors for most of this series spun England to defeat.

With the score at 75 for 3, England were coasting. Graeme Hick and Jack Russell had just put on 50, while South Africa had lost their wicket-keeper and Jonty Rhodes, their best fielder, to hand injuries.

In a state of desperation, Hansie Cronje turned to Adams and with the first ball of his second over he removed Hick,

who was given out caught behind by the deputy keeper, Gary Kirsten.

It was the just the fillip South Africa needed and it precipitated a mini-collapse with Graham Thorpe going next ball, bowled by one that spun back viciously through his legs from the rough outside his off-stump. When Jack Russell followed three runs later, run out attempting a daft run, England suddenly found themselves at the edge of a familiar precipice.

England experimented with Craig White as a pinch hitter. It was the right tactic on a pitch that defied convention, though White after striking a sumptuous cover drive past Jonty Rhodes for four, was out trying to run Fanie de Villiers down to third run a poorly selected and executed shot from a man with licence to strike out.

England then got themselves a game, when Robin Smith was bowled for nought by Shaun Pollock, after duck-batting a ball that hit his foot before rolling back onto his leg-stump. It was a desperately unlucky dismissal which meant that England went

to supper on 12 for 2, their innings starting before the break due to South Africa being bowled out before time.

It was the kind of pitch that demanded team work with the bat. But if it was not a true surface, neither was it a dangerous one. Rather it called for somebody to dig deep and prop up and end, while bold strokes were attempted at the other. Although an outfield slowed by heavy overnight rain did not always allow the bold to be fully recompensed and South Africa's batsmen hit just nine fours in their total of 129, their lowest score in a one-day international at home.

Brian McMillan played the barnacle for South Africa, scoring an unbeaten 45 off 92 balls, though no one managed to fulfill the hitting role at the other end. By playing almost entirely off the front foot, he worked hard for his runs, his only variation being to sweep Richard Illingworth to leg, and occasionally to off changing the grip on his bat to do so.

Not once did he go for the big shot, and his ninth-wicket stand of 30 with Fanie de Villiers was the second highest of the innings, five less than the one McMillan shared with Jonty Rhodes for the fifth wicket. Rhodes later paying the type of penalty typical in a pitch of this nature - a leading edge to mid-on - after trying to work Illingworth to leg.

It is difficult to assess the merits of England's bowling on a surface where anything near to straight was almost impossible to hit with any power. Certainly they adhered to the basics as they should be in international bowlers, though only four maidens were registered making a grand total of 17 in six matches. A figure that cries out for the enhanced accuracy of an Angus Fraser or Tim Munton.

Still none were profligate, although Darren Gough, who finished with 3 for 25, still tried to yank the tallenders from a good length had done for the better players up the order. It was just such experimentation that allowed the No 10, de Villiers, to become the third highest scorer with 15 before being bowled by Craig White.



One up: Darren Gough's raised finger salutes the downfall of South Africa's Shaun Pollock yesterday

Photograph: Matthew Ashton/Empics

### Buffalo Park scoreboard

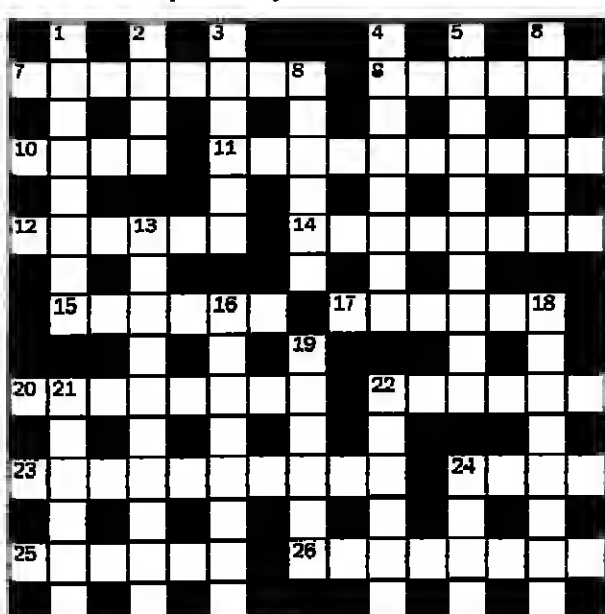
(South Africa won toss)

SOUTH AFRICA		ENGLAND	
G Aardent c Smith b Gough	17	C White c Richardson b de Villiers	6
R P Small c Atherton b Marsh	3	R A Smith b Pollock	0
M J Gough b White	13	G A Hick c Forster b Adams	29
J H Kallis bow b Marlon	40	R C Russell run out	12
B W Muckian run out	40	G P Thorpe b Adams	12
N H Rhodes c Gough b Illingworth	10	N H Farnborough b Smith	43
L Nkomo run b Gough	0	G G Cook b Adams	2
S M Pollock b Gough	0	R K Illingworth run out	1
10 J Richardson bow b Gough	0	O Gough bow b Smith	4
P S de Villiers b White	15	P J Marlon not out	27
P R Adams b Cork	0	Edwards not out	13
Extras (0.1, 0.1, 0.1, 0.2)	15	Falls (43.4 overs)	125
Total (41.4 overs)	129	Falls (43.4 overs)	125
		Falls: 1-25, 2-29, 3-29, 4-54, 5-80, 6-89, 7-98, 8-98, 9-128	
		Bowling: Cork 9.4-1, 22-2; Marlon 7-0-23; 2-28; 10-1-25; 3-25; White 7-1-28; 2-11; 3-29-1	
		SOUTH AFRICA WIN BY 14 RUNS	

### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

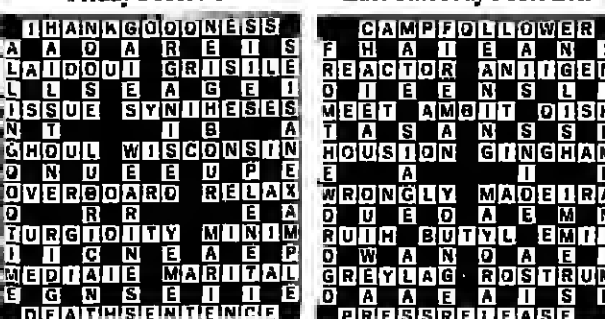
No. 2888, Saturday 30 January

By Mass



Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution



### ACROSS

- 7 Steep ground? (8)
- 9 Just the creature to chatter (6)
- 10 Flutter (investing a pound)... (4)
- 11 ...cleans up (with profits) in gamble (10)
- 12 Black neat telephone! (6)
- 14 Bookmaker's following second horse in SP? (8)
- 15 Partners producing witty remarks? Not South (6)
- 17 Bird in smokes, audible and clear (6)
- 20 Not half like Big Ben! (3-5)
- 22 A Pole's habitual trait? (6)
- 23 Wind up, getting company in calm ship upset (10)
- 24 Static jug (4)
- 25 Plead for shelter (6)
- 26 English exploit, grabbing record, I acclaim (8)

### DOWN

- 1 Animal has trouble climbing this shrub (8)
- 2 Apt to bristle, being set up (4)
- 3 Not so far off (6)
- 4 Characteristic stage part, perhaps (8)
- 5 Want to imbibe can? This suggests otherwise (10)
- 6 Plum, the French jam (6)
- 8 A country said to produce oil (6)
- 13 A bloomer from a socially awkward type (10)
- 16 Quite a feat, inserting plug in leak (8)
- 18 Cross and curt about painter, see (8)
- 19 Counsel for defence's opening in a porn racket, say (6)
- 21 A door for which deliveries are intended? (6)
- 22 At home, getting sound draw (6)
- 24 Green Party's abjured a certain measure (4)

The first five correct solutions in this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardback copies of the excellent Chambers Biographical Dictionary, worth £35. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P.O. Box 4018, The Independent, Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5EL. Please use the box number and postcode. Last week's winners: Mrs L Boyle, Dorchester; Mrs J Ventham, Dorchester; Mrs S M Barclay, London E5; Mrs J Baker, Brighton; Mrs & Mrs T J Doyle, Hampshire.

### Warwickshire finally able to sign Pollock

Ali Bacher, the managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, has finally sanctioned Shaun Pollock's signing for Warwickshire, on the understanding that the 22-year-old all-rounder is not overworked.

Bacher's "gentleman's agreement" with Warwickshire's captain, Dermot Reeve, in East London this morning put the seal on Pollock's £40,000 contract for next summer.

Pollock, who has impressed for South Africa during England's tour of the republic, will join the county champions in April if he passes a medical to be conducted by the UCBSA next week.

Otherwise most of the bargains in the pitch or those it created in their minds and five batsmen were either lbw or bowled.

If either aide plays the knockout stage of the World Cup in India, they may be pitches similar to this one. After South Africa's win in Durban, Ray Illingworth warned them they might struggle on pitches like this one. What he forgot to mention is that England will do so as well.

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